

30 YEARS OF
VICTORIES P.18

FOUNDERS
CLUB P.22

Q & A WITH KEN
AZZOPARDI P.36

the taxpayer

30th Anniversary
SUMMER 2020
taxpayer.com



**SUBSCRIBE to
the Canadian
Taxpayers
Podcast for
free on Apple
Podcasts, Spotify,
Google Podcasts,
Stitcher and
many other
podcast
providers.**

**Or check it out
at Taxpayer.com.**



FROM THE PRESIDENT



Three decades of defending taxpayers in Canada



Scott Hennig
shennig@taxpayer.com

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is a federally incorporated not-for-profit and non-partisan organization dedicated to lower taxes, less waste and accountable government. Founded in 1990, the Federation is independent of all partisan or institutional affiliations and is entirely funded by free-will, non-tax receiptable contributions. All material is copyrighted. Permission to reprint can be obtained by e-mailing the publisher: shennig@taxpayer.com. Printed in Canada.

SUMMER 2020

PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT
NO. 40063310

RETURN UNDELIVERABLE
CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:
CANADIAN TAXPAYERS FEDERATION
501, 2201 11th Ave.
REGINA, SK S4P 0J8

An economic lockdown, a trillion-dollar debt, a global pandemic ... it's easy to look at the year we've had in 2020 and get discouraged. But I'm not. Taxpayers have always had to band together to fight and win our battles. Whether it was balanced budgets, tax relief, MP pension reform or freedom of information laws ... not one victory has been handed to us on a silver platter. The same goes for every bad idea or trial balloon that has been stopped or popped – tax hikes, gag laws, legacy pet projects – all of them stopped because taxpayers took a stand and said no. Often when I tell someone what I do for work, they will remark “no shortage of work for you these days,” or “you won’t be unemployed anytime soon.” My common rejoinder is to say “hey, I’d love to put myself out of work!” It’s a folksy way to move a conversation forward, but it’s not really true.

If we were successful in getting governments to balance budgets, pay off the debt, eliminate all wasteful spending, be completely transparent about how they spend our money and build strong democratic institutions that give taxpayers more control over their politicians and public policy – that would sound like a job well done. It might even be a reason to wrap up this project, now 30 years in the making. But what would happen the day after we shut down? Politicians are going to politick. Lobbyists are going to lobby. And taxpayers are going to pay all the taxes. Nobel Prize-winning economist James Buchanan, who helped popularize Public Choice Theory, explained this theory best when he told Frontier Centre for Public Policy President Peter Holle in 2001: “Politicians and bureaucrats are no different from the rest of us. They will maximize their incentives just like everybody else.”

Politicians want to be loved and they want to get re-elected. If the choice comes down to making the right decision for taxpayers or the right decision for their chance of re-election, it won’t be a contest. It’s never going to be as simple as electing better politicians or creating enough laws to handcuff both the bureaucracy and the elected class from spending money. (Though we should absolutely do both of those things.)



Politicians are going to politick. Lobbyists are going to lobby. And taxpayers are going to pay all the taxes.

The founders of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation knew that the only way taxpayers would be equipped to defend themselves from the natural inertia of government to grow, or the natural instinct of our politicians to seek re-election, was with a permanent organization supported by thousands of taxpayers. Today, that supporter base has grown to hundreds of thousands. That’s what you’ve helped create. Only because you have supported this cause does this organization exist. Only because you took the time to sign a petition or contact a politician do we win. I commit to you that we will continue to find new tax-fighting Canadians to join the cause. The first 30 years has been a wild ride and I can’t wait to see what the next 30 have in store. **T**

THE TUTTLE TWINS

The world is on fire.

Socialism is on the rise.

And the schools aren't helping. In fact, curriculum has totally failed to teach kids the ideas of a free society — property rights, justice, individual liberty, free markets, and more.

So it's up to us parents to fill the gap and make sure our children learn to think critically about the messages they hear from schools, the media, and the government. But many parents struggle to know how to do this.

That's why we've created the Tuttle Twins children's book series.

Our award-winning books introduce young readers age 5-11 (and, let's be honest, many of their parents) to economic and civic ideas that we all should know, but often were never taught.

We've sold over a million — and we'd love to see a set belong to your family.

Get your books at a discount at TuttleTwins.com today.



the
taxpayer

SUMMER 2020
30TH ANNIVERSARY

Editor-in-Chief

Scott Hennig, President & CEO

Editors

Paige MacPherson
Bruce Annan

Art Direction

Wendy Schroder

Distribution

Shannon Morrison, Vice President, Operations

Regular Contributors

Jeff Bowes, Director of Digital Marketing
Aaron Wudrick, Federal Director
Todd MacKay, Vice President, Communications,
and Prairie Director
Paige MacPherson, Atlantic Director
Kris Sims, British Columbia Director
Renaud Brossard, Québec Director
Kris Rondolo, Generation Screwed
Franco Terrazzano, Alberta Director
Jasmine Moulton, Ontario Director
James Wood, Investigative Journalist

This Issue's Contributor

Mark Milke

Advertising

Contact Kristen Smith:
ksmith@universusmedia.com

Offices

Administration & Prairie (SK & MB):
#501, 2201 11th Ave., Regina, SK S4P 0J8
PH: (800) 667-7933

Federal: #712-170 Laurier Ave W,
Ottawa, ON K1P 5V5 PH: (800) 265-0442

British Columbia: P.O. Box 20539, Howe Street RPO,
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N8

Alberta: P.O. Box 14063, Richmond Road PO,
Calgary, AB T3E 7Y7

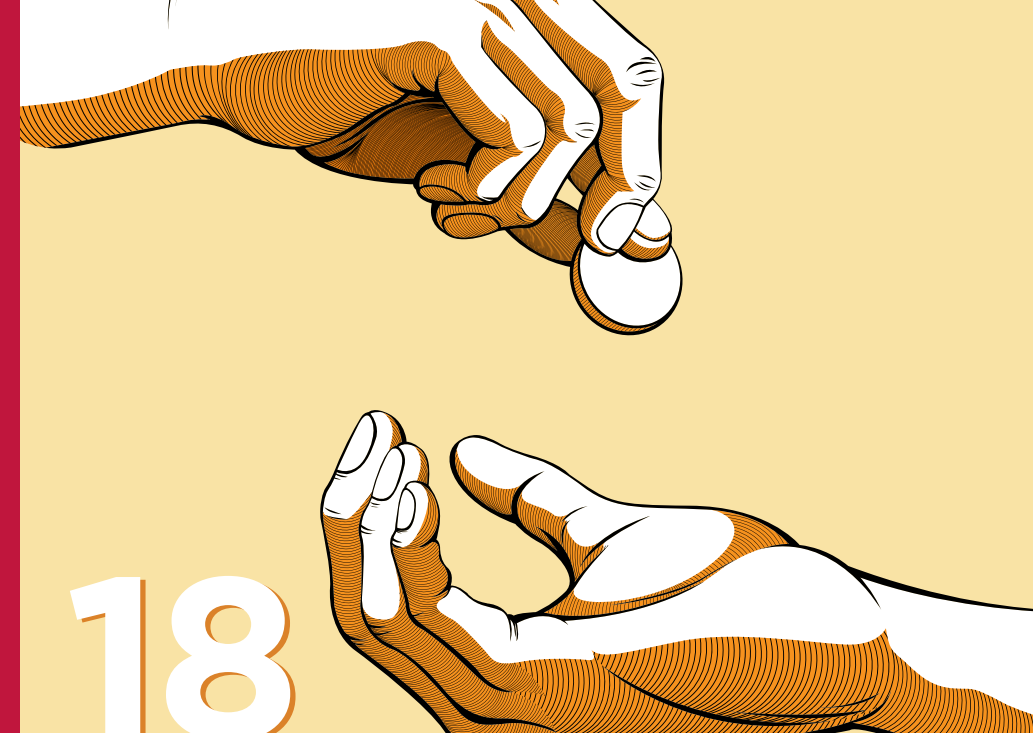
Ontario: P.O. Box 74507, 270 The Kingsway,
Etobicoke, ON M9A 5E2

Québec: 1410, rue Stanley, bureau 1010,
Montréal, QC H3A 1P8

E-mail: admin@taxpayer.com

The Taxpayer is published three times a year
and distributed to CTF donors as well as
journalists, opinion-leaders and municipal,
provincial and federal lawmakers.

Taxpayer
.com



VICTORIES:

Putting tens of billions of dollars back in taxpayers' pockets since 1990.



Standing up for First Nations



TaxFighters

Celebrating 30 years
of honouring Canada's
TaxFighters.

THE NATION

- 6 Letters to the Editor
- 8 WasteWatch
- 66 Taxpayer by the Numbers

ADVOCACY & OPINION

- 14 **Who we are and what we do**
- 22 **The Founders Club**
- 36 **Q & A:** With Ken Azzopardi
- 42 **The Teddy Awards:** Celebrating the best
of the worst of government waste
- 48 **Generation Screwed:** Building a national
movement in seven years

THE PROVINCES

- 50 **BC:** Scoring wins for taxpayers on
Canada's left coast
- 52 **AB:** Three decades of setting the pace in Alberta
- 54 **SK:** From clean offices to cold beers -
Victories aplenty in Saskatchewan
- 56 **MB:** Thirty years and many wins for taxpayers
- 58 **ON:** Looking back on the CTF's impact in Ontario
- 60 **QC:** Québec: Four-years-in
- 62 **AT:** CTF's Atlantic Office celebrating
10 years of fighting for taxpayers



With over 160 editions of The Taxpayer published since 1989 (even before we were the Canadian Taxpayers Federation), we have received hundreds of letters to the editor. Here are some of our favourites from the past 30 years.

Our very first letter to the editor (MAR-APR 1990)

I wish to commend your organization on the message you send to the public. Having reviewed information from you for some time, I find it alarming as to where your tax money is spent. Thank you, it is an eye opener.

Kemis Belsher
Edmonton



Why we started Generation Screwed (JAN-FEB 2000)

I am 25 years old, just bought a townhouse and have started to make some decent money. I am a Simon Fraser University graduate with a BA in economics. I never paid much attention because I never made enough to make a fuss. But the more I see how much of my paycheck goes to taxes, I feel very discouraged. Something has to be done, not only to cut taxes but get our businesses to stay in Canada. I get upset when we can't compete with the US or other countries for that matter. May people and businesses are going south for tax reasons. I love it here in Vancouver and plan to stay for the long haul. I'm getting sick of listening to people complaining including myself. So I would like to get involved in some way even if it is to sign a petition. At least I know I will have done what I can to make Canada a better place to live.

Jay Guzman
Vancouver

First Nation politician salaries (WINTER 2011)

I would like to thank and congratulate your organization for the recent exposé of First Nation leaders and their absurdly high salaries. We as First Nation citizens often find ourselves hitting a brick wall when it comes to trying to uncover such information. The majority of First Nation peoples, namely the poor, do not support such abuse of government funding. I became a supporter of your organization because I believe in what your organization advocates and hope that I can get advice on how to set up a citizens' advocacy group in my community.

Herbie Joseph
Elsipogtog First Nation, NB

Our fearful corporations (SUMMER 2016)

What an excellent piece by Troy Lanigan (The 'corporate agenda'?) The Taxpayer, Spring 2016). He was too polite to say, but the reason corporations support their adversaries is fear. Their misguided hope is that bribing their tormentors will result in fewer shrill attacks. And the reason why corporations will not support the Taxpayers Federation and similar organisations is the same reason they didn't advertise in conservative publications, when there still were a few: fear of being associated with a philosophy frowned upon by the Canadian establishment. Thus, our corporations cut the limb they—and the rest of us—sit on.

Jerry Mencl
Telkwa, BC

What you don't know will cost you (SEPT-OCT 1999)

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The following letter was received from a former Industry Canada employee. At his request, his name was not published at the time. However, he has since given us permission to print his name.*

Initially I had some reservations about writing to an organization that regards government support to industry as corporate welfare. However, I am beginning to realize that subsidizing a small number of corporations is clearly at the expense of many other firms across Canada and in turn their employees. Having served with Industry Canada, I am convinced that picking winners is often a matter of chance. Moreover, decisions can be strongly biased when corporations benefit from political connections or when ministers seize the opportunity to further personal or party interests at public expense. Hopefully, taxpayers will realize that they are being duped, before many more sizable gifts are provided to large, wealthy and powerful corporations. I would prefer that you don't mention my name, but believe your members should know just what lies behind the news stories.

Cliff Oldridge
Ottawa, ON

Dumbfounded by handouts (SEPT-OCT 1991)

I am sitting here with The Taxpayer open looking at this long list of giveaways and wondering why my taxes are so high, and why this country is so broke. A quick scan of this list I see 10 places where there have been two grants given and four places where three grants have been handed out to the same companies and some of them are quite sizeable. I realize this is taxpayers' money being spent and it hurts. I appreciate what the Taxpayers Federation is doing. Keep up the good work. Yours for a better Canada

G.R.

Getting the facts right (NOV-DEC 2005)

Your September/October You Asked For It debunks the widely circulated e-mail hoax claiming refugees earn more than pensioners in Canada. It demonstrates how careful we have to be expressing and circulating an opinion without having all the facts. Thank goodness that we have the Canadian Taxpayers Federation to do the screening process for us and separate facts from fiction! The CTF deserves support.

Gerry Van Dongen
Brantford, ON

CTF gets my Ralphbucks (MAY-JUNE 2006)

Sending tax dollars back to taxpayers in a manner that skims over \$10 million in administration costs is just plain stupid. If you want

to give money back to taxpayers, then don't take it from them in the first place. I am forwarding my Resource Rebate cheque to the Canadian Taxpayers Federation as you continue to be the only voice of reason on government spending issues.

L. Champagne
Calgary

Tax Me, I'm Canadian (SEPT-OCT 2002)

I have just ordered two more "Tax Me I'm Canadian" caps. I have been wearing one for about a year now. My wife says it best: "I have never seen anyone wear a piece of clothing that draws as many comments as that hat." People stop me anywhere in the world to comment on it. They ask me where to get one and I tell them "the Canadian Taxpayers Federation." Keep up the great work keeping governments' feet to the fire.

Bob Drummond
West Vancouver, BC

Not for the faint of heart (SPRING 2017)

Except for what it does to one's blood pressure, The Taxpayer magazine should be sent free to every Canadian household (except those of government employees). Perhaps you could even get a government grant for printing and postage!

Fred Purvis
Toronto

EDITOR'S NOTE: *We appreciate the endorsement Fred! We do send The Taxpayer free of charge to our elected officials - though we can't force them to read it. But we'd never take a government grant under any circumstances. If the government controlled our purse strings, we could be effectively neutered.)*

Floored by the waste (SUMMER 2017)

I just finished reading the Spring 2017 edition of The Taxpayer, which is the first I've read, and I'm just floored by the wasteful spending of all levels of provincial and federal governments. If these governments actually cared about the people they serve, they'd be watching the bottom line, instead of spending money like it's going out of style. This recklessness is going to burden future generations with never-ending debt. Whatever happened to transparency and accountability?

Jennifer Neumann
Calgary

Balance Budget Amendment (VOL 8, NO 2, 1996)

I appreciate very much The Taxpayer. At times I have to read it in small doses, as it make me so angry and disgusted with the federal government that it makes for new ulcers. Your proposed Taxpayer Protection Amendment is especially impressive. However, I believe the federal budget should be balanced now, not in three to four years. There are thousands of ways to reduce spending; all it would take is a deaf ear to special interest groups and a lot of gumption. As a taxpayer, I see red over some of the ridiculous and idiotic ways our money is wasted.

R. J. Whelpton
Rose Prairie, BC



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be edited for length, content and clarity.

Send your letters to:
c/o #501, 2201 11th Ave.,
Regina, SK S4P 0J8
E-mail: letters@taxpayer.com



FOR 27 YEARS, Dean Smith compiled and wrote WasteWatch for The Taxpayer magazine. Thirty years in, we look back at some of the best stories Dean found, and some of our more recent favourites.

This picture not so clear (SUMMER 2012)



A Freedom of Information request by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation discovered that TransLink — a provincial government agency providing transit for B.C.'s Lower Mainland — spent \$523,444 in 2009 purchasing 13 TV screens. That's over \$40,000 per screen.

The screens were set up at five SkyTrain transit stations and were intended to provide emergency information for travellers. However, when the CTF visited the stations to find out how the TV screens were doing, we found that only four were actually working and at one location, the TVs had been removed altogether.

Source: *The Canadian Taxpayers Federation*

Government union gets burned (JULY-AUG 2007)

The problem started in April 2007, when two City of Yorkton workers, driving a water truck used for spring cleaning, saw fire pouring out of a nearby house. As they drove up, the two were met by the chief of the fire department who had just arrived on the scene.

Firefighters had not yet arrived, so the chief asked the two if they had water in their truck. They said yes, and he

asked if the water could be used to fight the fire.

The two immediately agreed, turned their hoses on the fire and brought it down.

Because of their quick action the two city workers saved thousands of dollars in damage. They received a commendation from the city and an award from the RCMP.

However, when the firefighters' union heard about the incident it immediately issued a grievance against the city fire chief. The union contended the city had violated the non-contracting-out provision in the union's collective agreement.

When people caught wind of the union's absurd grievance, the resulting bad publicity led to the union withdrawing its complaint.

Source: *CBC News*

Pettigrew's "personal security adviser" (SEPT-OCT 2005)

When Canada's then-foreign affairs minister Pierre Pettigrew took trips to Europe and South America in 2001 and 2002, he decided to bring along his chauffeur, Bruno Labonte.

In Ottawa, Labonte drove Pettigrew around town and took him on trips to Montréal.

The decision to include Labonte on these trips, which included stops in Lima, Paris, Brussels and Madrid, cost taxpayers more than \$10,000. Labonte's expenses for the nine-day European trip in 2001 included \$5,602.38 for his first-class airfare and \$2,641.98 for his food and hotel. The South American trip, which included a stopover in Mexico, cost taxpayers \$1,771.91 for food and hotel. No breakdown was provided on the airfare.

The only good news is that Pettigrew didn't have his limousine shipped to these locations so that Labonte could drive him around. In fact, Labonte did no driving at all, as transportation on these excursions is provided by local officials or Canadian embassy employees. Initially Labonte's inclusion on the trips was justified by stating he was Pettigrew's "personal security adviser." As it turns out, however, security services on international trips are provided by either the RCMP or the host country.

Source: *The Globe and Mail*

Will the real yo-yos please stand up? (JULY-AUG 2006)

The city of Edmonton coughed up \$50,000 to pay 30 American actors to run around Washington, D.C. handing out yo-yos.

They gave away 10,000 yo-yos as a way of promoting Edmonton in the U.S. capital. On one side of the yo-yo was a website with a chance to win a trip to Edmonton and on



the other, the words "Edmonton Festival City" were proudly emblazoned. If that was not enough to imprint Edmonton in the minds of Washingtonians, the American actors wore Edmonton caps and t-shirts.

It was all part of a week-long celebration of Alberta in the American capital, coinciding with an Alberta exhibition at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

Source: *The Edmonton Sun*

The goose that laid the golden fine (SEPT-OCT 2005)

If the bureaucrats at Environment Canada had their way, Peter Francis of Leduc, Alta would have spent six months in jail and faced a \$300,000 fine for — brace yourself — moving geese.

Apparently, there is a law at the environment department that forbids the moving of migratory birds without a permit.

In fact, Francis' crime was so horrendous that Environment Canada issued a news release condemning the affair. It stated that "the best interests of the geese and all concerned citizens were not taken into consideration."

So how did Francis end up in this pickle? Well, he is the maintenance foreman at the Leduc Golf and Country Club and the geese were doing what geese do best: getting in the way and pooping all over the grass — in this case, all over the golf course. For the sake of all concerned, including the geese who could have gotten hit by golf balls, Francis



decided to move the 40 or so geese to a lake south of town.

Despite the disruption, most were convinced the geese likely still found their way to the U.S. and Mexico during their fall migration.

Source: *National Post / Environment Canada*

Fishing licence needed to plant corn (SUMMER 2011)

Martin Reid, a corn farmer near Sabrevois, Québec was forced to buy a fishing permit in order to plant corn.

As a result of the unusual amount of rain, much of Reid's land was covered in water.

This resulted in a number of carp being landlocked on his flooded farmland. Because of this, Fisheries and Oceans Canada demanded Reid buy a fishing licence to remove the fish.

He was also required to capture them live (both sexes of fish were specifically mentioned) and transport them in containers of water to the river. If any carp died in transport, he was required to bury the carp, (there was no mention of the minimum he would have to spend on funeral arrangements).

Only once all the fish were captured would bureaucrats allow him to remove the water from his land.

In 1993, Reid experienced similar flooding. That year he decided to just pump the water off his land, killing the carp in the process. When Fisheries and Oceans Canada found out about this they fined Reid \$1,000 and warned him if he did it again, he could be fined as much as \$100,000. There would have been no penalties if Reid had simply left the water (and fish) to dry up.

Source: *QMI Agency*

FISHING FOR SPONSORSHIP MONEY (JULY-AUG 2005)

Fishing for money from the sponsorship program, which was set up to stop Québec from leaving Canada, was like shooting fish in a barrel. Take the case of Luc Lemay, whose advertising firm received \$13.7 million to produce and air radio ads in rural Québec between 1998 and 2002.

The 30-second radio ads featured timely advice on issues of vital importance to national unity. In one ad, Québécois were warned that fishing line is severely weakened when sprayed with insect repellent. The ad ended with, "The Government of Canada wishes you a happy fishing time."

Another ad told Québécois that onions have a diuretic effect and that onions and garlic can calm you, ending: "The Government of Canada urges you to eat well."

In another ad, an insurance broker told Québécois that most insurance policies would pay living expenses if individuals were forced to move out of their homes because of fire. The ad ended: "The Government of Canada wishes you a good day."

Source: *National Post / Globe and Mail*





Cold weather? In Saskatoon? (WINTER 2016)

Saskatoon City Council wasted nearly \$5.3 million installing 325 new high-tech parking meters.

The meters were capable of taking a picture of a car's licence plate and issuing a ticket when a meter expired.

However, the system ran into some immediate problems. First, the city doesn't have the authority to issue parking tickets by mail, so it still needed attendants to write out tickets the old-fashioned way.

Second, the meters are solar powered ... so they only work as long as it doesn't snow. And if the snow isn't cleared off the solar panels, their batteries eventually die and they stop working entirely. A city employee is sent out to clear them off as needed.

Yet the biggest problem is

that the parking meters don't work in cold weather. (Remember, this is Saskatoon.) Apparently, a small spring that opens the coin flap freezes, preventing people from inserting coins.

So, while city council and bureaucrats were salivating over an anticipated \$1.3-million revenue increase, revenues actually declined \$1 million in the first year of operation.

Source: *Saskatoon Star Phoenix*

A royal mistake (FALL 2009)

The federal Public Works Department routinely sells unneeded items through its online auction service. In the spring of 2009, it decided to unload some items sitting around Rideau Hall — the Governor General's residence. But there were a couple of problems.

First, the items sold were considered historic antiques and were quite valuable, but since the bureaucrats never undertook due diligence, the items were sold for a "pittance." Then there was the little issue that the government didn't actually own some of the items auctioned. They were wedding gifts to the Queen of England's grandparents and were on loan from Buckingham Palace.

When the mistake was discovered, bureaucrats were sheepishly required to buy the items back from the people who had purchased them. Of course, at this point the government was required to get an actual appraisal done on



items (something that should have been done before they were sold). Three sterling silver flower baskets which had been presented to Queen Elizabeth II as wedding gifts, and were on loan from Buckingham Palace, were sold for \$532. The government paid \$50,000 to purchase them back from a Québec buyer.

A Montréal buyer earned \$31,781.96 on a small gold trimmed table mirror he purchased for \$218.04.

The bureaucrats, however, did get 'lucky' on a couple buybacks. A set of china teacups painted by artist Alice Hagen were appraised at \$25,000. The department had sold them to a PEI buyer for \$275 and repurchased the items for \$1,400.

In total, the government paid \$96,500 to recover items it sold for \$3,934.37.

Source: *The Ottawa Sun*

Budget cover cost taxpayers \$212,234 (FALL 2017)



An access to information request discovered that the federal Department of Finance paid \$212,234 for the cover design of its March budget, titled Building A Strong Middle Class.

The department contracted the design to an ad agency, paying \$89,500 for models used to represent the middle class.

The images were intended to convey subliminal messages. These included a boy holding a cartoon bridge representing infrastructure spending, while a man having his blood pressure checked apparently illustrated a "strong Canada."

It was the most expensive budget cover ever, easily beating the previous year's record \$176,339.

Prior to the election of the Trudeau Liberals, the Conservatives used budget covers with a simple blue design that cost taxpayers about \$600.

Source: *Blacklock's Reporter*

Wotten Wabbit (NOV-DEC 1999)

In 1999, Canada Council under the auspices of the Department of Canadian Heritage gave \$15,000 to University of Manitoba professor Diana Thorneycroft so she could — in the name of art — hang 12 rabbit carcasses in some trees.

The rabbit corpses had some of Thorneycroft's photographic relics hidden inside of them. In time these relics were revealed, as maggots ate away the flesh. The exhibit is modeled after the utensils in the Roman Catholic Church which hold the Eucharist.

In addition, Thorneycroft had an indoor display featuring 23 shaved toy bunnies. The toys had real rabbit parts stuffed inside.

Eleven dead rabbits were purchased from a local store for \$10 and the other one was roadkill which was donated. The toy rabbits probably ran about the same. The remaining \$14,700 was used to pay for Thorneycroft's "creativity."

Amazingly, Canada Council chose her exhibit out of a group of 232 applicants. It makes one wonder what kind of proposals were rejected.

Source: *National Post*

Only a government pays to lose money (FALL 2015)

The cash-strapped Ontario government decided in 2014 that it wanted to sell Ontera, a telecommunications Crown company valued at about \$67 million.

The government ended up selling the company to Bell Aliant for just \$6 million.

Some people were suitably outraged, but what's worse: the Ontario government paid lawyers and consultants \$6.5 million to negotiate the \$6-million sale. In other words, if the government had simply given it away, taxpayers would be \$500,000 ahead.

Source: *National Post*

Ontario pays \$28 million to not build a wind farm (FALL 2016)

With Ontarians' anger exploding over rising electricity rates due to the government's wholesale move to green energy, taxpayers were stunned to find out they paid a company \$28 million not to build a windmill farm.

The money went to an American company, Windstream Energy, that was planning to build a wind farm on Lake Ontario in 2011, and had a contract with the government to supply the power.

Those plans came to an end in 2011, when the government put a moratorium on wind farm development.

It was an election year, and many believe it was due to growing citizen opposition to windmills.

Windstream took the Ontario government to court under NAFTA. In its defence, the government argued that it stopped windmill construction over concerns it would stir up toxic sediment on the lake bottom.

The business originally demanded \$475 million US but the three-person panel at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague awarded the company \$28 million for not building a wind farm.

Another windmill company, Trillium Energy, also sued Ontario taxpayers for \$500 million.

Source: *National Post*

LEMONADE STAND SHUT DOWN BY NCC

(SPRING 2017)



Eliza Andrews, 7, left, and her sister Adela Andrews, 5, hold their new special permit from the National Capital Commission allowing them to sell lemonade on Colonel By Drive as long as the proceeds are given to charity. MATERIAL REPUBLISHED WITH THE EXPRESS PERMISSION OF OTTAWA CITIZEN, A DIVISION OF POSTMEDIA NETWORK INC.

You know Ottawa bureaucrats don't have enough work to do when they spend part of their day shutting down a lemonade stand operated by children.

Last summer Eliza and Adela Andrews, 7 and 5, decided to sell lemonade to raise money to go to camp.

Their mistake was setting up on land managed by the National Capital Commission. The NCC operates the House of Commons and related capital properties.

When a bureaucrat saw the stand, he asked the girls whether they had a permit. Of course, they did not. The girls were forced to close down after making \$52 in sales.

After the media got wind of it, the NCC apologized and helped the girls fill out the necessary paperwork to allow them to continue selling lemonade.

But the NCC did make the girls donate the unpermitted \$52 in sales to charity.

Sources: *National Post/CBC*



THE MEASURE OF INCOMPETENCE

(SUMMER 2017)

Adi Astl at the top of the staircase he built in Tom Riley Park. MATERIAL REPUBLISHED WITH THE EXPRESS PERMISSION OF TORONTO SUN, A DIVISION OF POSTMEDIA NETWORK INC.

When retired mechanic Adi Astl approached Toronto city hall about building steps down to a community garden, the bureaucracy said it would cost between \$65,000 and \$150,000, with no idea when it would be done.

So Astl decided to build it himself. He purchased enough lumber at Home Depot for an eight-step staircase down to garden. The total cost was \$550 and that included paying a homeless man to help. Most of the money was donated.

The people using the garden thanked Astl profusely for the steps and immediately began to use them as several had fallen trying to navigate the steep incline.

Predictably, city bureaucrats were outraged. Citing safety concerns, they tore down the stairs. Apparently, they preferred people fall down the hill.

But when people began asking awkward questions about the massive difference in costs, even the mayor was forced to admit the bureaucracy's estimates were way overboard.

Under intense scrutiny, the bureaucracy wilted and said they could construct the stairs for just \$10,000, which is still 18 times higher than Astl's costs.

Sources: CTV News | Toronto Star

Jet flights for roaming chefs (WINTER 2018)

Canadian taxpayers spend \$1,750,000 per year on a "mission cultural fund" at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Diplomats were using the new slush fund to fly chefs around the world. The chefs whip up dishes for diplomats, VIPs and foreign media, all at Canadian taxpayers' expense.

The fund was created in 2016. One manager defended it as proof that Canada is a "progressive nation."

In 2017, for example, taxpayers spent \$15,000 to fly a chef first class to the Dominican Republic for a Canada Day banquet to "boost Canada's global image." Flying a different chef to a different Canada Day bash in Miami to prepare "signature Canadian dishes" cost taxpayers \$4,643.

The former executive chef at the Canadian ambassador's residence in Beijing now works as a caterer in New York. In 2017 he was flown to India, Laos, Brunei, Singapore and the Philippines to attend banquets, costing Canadian taxpayers \$55,533.

Foreign Affairs refused to disclose the full costs of flying chefs around the planet to cook for the well-heeled. A Charlottetown chef was flown to Addis Ababa and spent six nights at the Marriott Hotel and a Toronto chef was swept off to Jakarta, but the department did not release those costs.

Source: Blacklock's Reporter

Government grants for job destruction (WINTER-SPRING 2019)

Governments usually justify corporate welfare as job creation, so the federal and Ontario governments took a novel approach by giving Maple Leaf Foods millions of tax dollars to fire people.

The two governments gave Maple Leaf \$62.5 million to build a new plant. However, as a result, Maple Leaf Foods is closing other plants, putting 300 people out of work.

Maple Leaf's market capitalization is well over three billion dollars.

Source: Canadian Taxpayers Federation

That's \$286 under each bum (SUMMER 2018)

An access to information request by the CTF revealed that Global Affairs Canada spent \$24,638 to purchase 86 seat cushions for its embassy in Mexico City in 2016.

The cushions cost taxpayers \$286 apiece. The CTF found similar cushions for an average of \$50 each, with some as little as \$17.

This wasn't even the total cost, as the cushions purchased in Regina still needed to be shipped to Mexico. With the federal government scheduled to run a \$17-billion deficit that year, couldn't bureaucrats have sat on regular cushions like everyone else?

Source: Canadian Taxpayers Federation

The short-lived ugly wall (WINTER 2018)

Government employees in St. John's tore down a hideous privacy fence almost as quickly as they put it up.

A huge wooden privacy fence was erected by Parks Canada on Signal Hill in July 2018, blocking one of the most popular views in all of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Tourists often take pictures of the harbour from there, while locals gather to watch military parades on the field below. The wall blocked both.

Comedian Rick Mercer, a Newfoundland and Labrador native, instantly pounced on Twitter, saying: "Halfway up Signal Hill in St. John's — Parks Canada have built a fence designed to block the view. Welcome to NL nothing to see here."

Residents were appalled, calling the thick wooden fence "ugly" and an "eyesore."

While we don't yet know how much taxpayers' money Parks Canada blew on the three-metre-high blockage, the employees didn't move at the usual speed of government this time.

The thing was built on a Tuesday and it was torn down, in the pouring rain, on Thursday, two days later. Officials said the blonde, pressure-treated lumber would be reused as a barrier somewhere else.

Source: Chronicle Herald, CBC, Twitter

Burning through taxpayers' money, literally (SPRING 2019)

If you've ever felt like the government was burning through your tax dollars like kindling, you were right.

A tiny company in Atlantic Canada that dries scrap lumber and then bags and sells the wood as kindling has received 14 separate handouts from the federal government – more than \$1.6 million – since it opened for business in 1999.

Fiready Inc., located in the village of Clair, N.B., was given money at nearly every stage of its existence, on an almost yearly basis.

The company employs 12 people.

In 1999 it got a loan of \$291,230 to buy a dry kiln to make the kindling. In January 2019 it got a loan of \$303,250 for a bagging machine. In total the company has received more than \$1.6 million in loans and grants from Canadian taxpayers, along with \$200,000 in loans from the Business Development Bank and \$160,000 in subsidies from the New Brunswick government.

Parks Canada has also spent \$866,693 in firewood purchases for campers to use at Fundy and Kouchibouguac National Parks.

That means taxpayers paid to both create the kindling and to purchase it later.

Source: Blacklock's Reporter

Trudeau's trip to India cost taxpayers \$1.5 million (SUMMER 2018)

An access to information request revealed that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's controversial nine-day trip to India in 2018 cost taxpayers at least \$1.5 million.

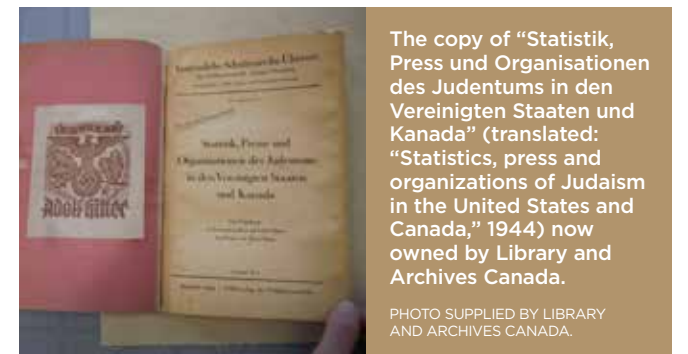
Trudeau was joined not only by his family but by 77 other politicians and bureaucrats. Aside from the lavish parties, what did they spend our money on?

- \$60,000 for chauffeur-driven limos;
- \$17,044 for an Indian-Canadian celebrity chef to be flown to India for a reception at the Canadian High Commission;
- \$5,101 for Canadian wine;
- \$323,000 for hotel rooms, including \$89,147 for the Taj Palace Hotel;
- \$5,236 in cell phone fees;
- \$485,070 for the Airbus to fly everyone there and back; and
- \$3,582 for gifts.

The access to information request only asked for expenses above \$1,000, so the total cost for the visit is undoubtedly much higher.

Sources: Toronto Star | Journal de Montréal

Library and Archives pays premium on possibly-fake Hitler book (WINTER-SPRING 2020)



The copy of "Statistik, Press und Organisationen des Judentums in den Vereinigten Staaten und Kanada" (translated: "Statistics, press and organizations of Judaism in the United States and Canada," 1944) now owned by Library and Archives Canada.

PHOTO SUPPLIED BY LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA.

Taxpayers paid a premium for a book alleged to have been owned by Adolf Hitler.

The purchase was announced by Library and Archives Canada in early 2019.

It cost \$4,522, though the volume had originally been priced at \$3,000 in 2011.

Staff questioned the merit of the purchase and it appears as though the agency never verified whether the book was authentic prior to paying for it. Researchers have documented numerous forgeries of Hitler bookplates.

The CTF has asked for records showing any reviews of the purchase and reviews of the book's authenticity.

Source: Blacklock's Reporter

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO



by Renaud Brossard
Québec Director



by Scott Hennig
President & CEO



The man who killed bracket-creep
Walter Robinson has transformed the Canadian Taxpayers Federation into a respected lobbyist.

Walter Robinson, the beleaguering federal director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation for the past 10 years, has been named as the man who killed bracket-creep. It is a title from Paul Martin's diary that a few years ago Robinson used to describe the man who killed bracket-creep. "Special thanks are due to those who have engaged actively in the public process, challenging old assumptions and suggesting new approaches," Martin wrote. "Thanks to this man, the CTF is now a leading voice in the debate on the future of the tax system. The debt of the country is all the more pressing, considering that our long ago the CTF was founded by government officials and journalists alike as being a ramp of the old federal party system, Robinson's conduct...

The CTF Federal director Walter Robinson credited as the man that killed bracket creep in 2000.



Jason Kenney at the No More Taxes Rally in 1995.



SENATE HOT AIR
Mike Duffy in the chair of a Canadian Taxpayers Federation protest, in BC.

Crumbling Detroit goes bust
A report of U.S. city in decline bankruptcy may have uncertain future.

Our campaign to reform the Senate made front page news across the country in 2013.



Troy Lanigan gagged outside of the Elections BC office in 1997, protesting the government's gag law on citizen political advertising.



CTF founder Kevin Avram on the cover of Alberta Report in 1991.



Irina Statch of Montréal playing amongst the 242 pink plastic pigs the CTF set up on the Parliament Hill lawn in 1995 to oppose changes to the MP pension plan.



Then Ontario director Christine Van Geyn delivering hundreds of rubber ducks to Queen's Park in 2017.



Then-Manitoba director Victor Vrsnik launching our campaign to oppose bailouts for NHL teams in 2000.

THE YEAR WAS 1989.

Every Canadian government but British Columbia and Ontario were writing budgets in red ink. The debt kept adding up and interest payments were eating an ever-larger portion of the hard-earned taxes we sent to our governments.

In Saskatchewan, Kevin Avram teamed up with local businessmen Norm Wallace and Norm Baker to form the Association of Saskatchewan Taxpayers, a new grassroots organisation that would take on a growing debt and corruption within the Grant Devine government.

In Alberta, another group popped up: The Resolution One Association which aimed to get the federal government to pass a law requiring that every dollar of new revenue to be matched with an even greater spending cut.

The two groups were soon brought together to fight the newly proposed Goods and Services Tax. They organised Axe the Tax rallies across Western Canada, bringing out diverse speakers such as Preston Manning, Roy Romanow, Lynda Haverstock, Dick Johnston, Lloyd Axworthy and Deborah Grey.

Despite losing the fight against the GST, the founders of both groups knew they were on to something: Canadian



1990 Axe the Tax rally featuring from L to R: Reform Party leader Preston Manning, Association of Saskatchewan Taxpayers founder Kevin Avram, Saskatchewan NDP leader Roy Romanow, Canadian Federation of Independent Business spokesperson Dale Botting and Resolution One founder Link Byfield.

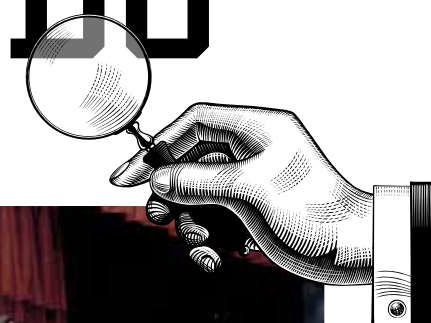
taxpayers wanted and needed to have a voice.

It happened on April 23, 1990, when the two groups merged to become the Canadian Federation of National and Provincial Taxpayers. Within a year, the name was shortened to the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

When they merged, they couldn't have known how right they were about the need for a strong voice standing up for taxpayers. In the 30 years since, with the help of our hundreds of thousands of supporters, we have been able to achieve victories saving

billions of dollars for Canadians everywhere, make governments more transparent across the country and uncover countless examples of wasteful spending.

You'll find some of our key victories chronicled in the pages of this special 30th anniversary edition of The Taxpayer. When reading them, be sure to give yourself a pat on the back, as they are a direct result of the petitions you signed, your calls and emails to politicians, and all the support you have given us over the years. None of this would have been possible without you.



STEERING THE SHIP

The CTF is a non-profit, non-partisan, federally incorporated citizens' advocacy group. Our board of directors is charged with the responsibility to ensure we adhere to all relevant legislation, and maintain the integrity of the organization's mission, conduct, strategic planning and finances.

All board directors are volunteers and do not receive any compensation.

The board is not involved in the day-to-day operation of the organization. The board meets regularly to provide guidance and advice to our CEO, to approve our strategic plan, annual communication goals and budget.

Over the course of our history, dozens of great Canadians have served on the board. Past chairs include Bob Matheson (1990-1995), Andy Crooks (1995-2007), Michael Binnion (2007-2015) and Adam Daifallah (2015-2019).

The current board consists of our chair Michelle Eaton and directors Ken Azzopardi, George Marshall, Maxime Robert and Sunira Chaudhri.



Michelle Eaton
(Ontario)



Ken Azzopardi
(British Columbia)



George Marshall
(Saskatchewan)



Maxime Robert
(Québec)



Sunira Chaudhri
(Ontario)



L to R: Jeff Bowes (Director of Digital Marketing), Kris Sims (British Columbia Director), Renaud Brossard (Québec Director), Franco Terrazzano (Alberta Director), Jasmine Moulton (Ontario Director), Paige MacPherson (Atlantic Director), Aaron Wudrick (Federal Director), Kris Rondolo (Executive Director of Generation Screwed), Todd MacKay (Prairie Director/Vice President, Communications)

SPREADING THE MESSAGE

The CTF employs a talented team of spokespeople, researchers, student organizers, interns and other communications staff. They are spread out across the country.

These representatives field hundreds of media interviews each month, hold press conferences, issue news releases, commentaries, action update emails, social media posts and send hundreds of access to information requests to governments to advocate on behalf of the CTF supporters.

They speak at functions, make presentations to citizen groups, testify at legislative and parliamentary committees, write reports and submissions to government officials, meet with decision-makers and organize campaigns to mobilize taxpayers and affect change.

Members of the communications team contribute to and operate our websites, Taxpayer.com, DebtClock.ca and GenerationScrewed.ca. They also write, research, create and publish articles for this magazine, The Taxpayer.

BUILDING THE CTF

While you might have seen a CTF spokesperson on TV, there's an even better chance you've had a call or meeting with one of our dedicated field agents.

The success of this organisation is built on the willingness of taxpayers across Canada to put their money where their mouth is and make voluntary financial contributions. In addition to using tools such as direct mail letters, online donation drives and telephone appeals, the CTF has a committed group of individuals who meet with our supporters in person and ask for a donation every year.

These field agents are not just fundraisers. They are much more than that. They are our eyes and ears on the ground, taking the pulse of our supporters on a wide range of issues, getting hundreds of petition signatures each and encouraging our supporters to take action and remain informed.



Saskatchewan field agent Harold Fenske receiving recognition for his 25th anniversary from National Field Manger Rod Cunningham (left) and Saskatchewan Field Manager Richard Lueke (right).

TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF TAXFIGHTERS



Lunched in 2013, the CTF's Generation Screwed initiative is taking our message to campuses across the country. While all Canadians should be worried about government debts, deficits and unfunded health and pension liabilities, none will be more directly affected by those than the millions of young Canadians who will have to shoulder that burden. After all, today's debt is nothing more than tomorrow's taxes.

Generation Screwed is our answer to this. Through Generation Screwed, we have been able to mobilize thousands of young Canadians over the past seven years, maintaining

a presence on 23 campuses across eight provinces. Thanks to our annual training retreats, we have been able to train well over a hundred young activists who have gone on to work in the broader tax-fighting movements. From our current Québec Director, to communications professionals working on the local advocacy campaigns, to think tank communications managers and political staffers, many hard-working young Canadians who have been involved with and trained thanks to our Generation Screwed initiative are leading the fight against tax and spend politicians.

ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS



L to R: Shannon Morrison, Elizabeth Zemlak, Brenda Smith, Melanie Harvie

In 2019-20, the CTF received more than 31,000 donations. It takes a dedicated team of support staff in our Regina office to process those donations, respond to queries from our supporters and the public, make sure the bills are paid on time, maintain our supporter database and make sure our website is up and running. If you've ever called our head office or emailed our Regina staff, you've probably talked with our Vice President, Operations, Shannon Morrison, or with our support staff Brenda, Aliyah or Elizabeth.

If you've ever attended one of our events, chances are you've been greeted by our Executive Vice President, Melanie Harvie, at the door. When she's not busy keeping us on budget, she's booking and organizing our events across the country.

Our entire team is headed by our President and CEO, Scott Hennig. Scott has been with the CTF for 15 years and has been President and CEO since 2019.

VICTORIES:

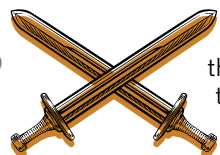
PUTTING TENS OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS BACK IN TAXPAYERS' POCKETS SINCE 1990

With the support of taxpayers from coast-to-coast, the Canadian Taxpayers Federation has fought and won many victories since 1990. In fact, there are too many to list here. But here are some of the highlights:

SLAYING THE DEFICIT AND TACKLING THE DEBT

The 1995 federal budget was a seminal moment for the organization and the country. The CTF led the charge against the spectre of tax hikes in the 1995 budget by organizing rallies coast-to-coast to push the Chrétien government to cut spending rather than raise taxes. That's precisely what happened in 1995. The budget in Ottawa was balanced in 1997 for the first time in 27 years.

The CTF has also won budget victories in the provinces. Not only did Alberta's Klein government listen to CTF calls for balanced budget laws, it enacted balanced budget and debt retirement laws. This resulted in 14 straight years of balanced budgets and the repayment of more than \$22 billion worth of debt, which led to a debt-free Alberta in 2005. The CTF also successfully pushed for balanced budget laws in Saskatchewan, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia.



POLITICIANS' PAY AND PERKS

The CTF is well-known for going toe-to-toe with entitled politicians. In 1992, Alberta premier Ralph Klein did not take kindly to CTF's young Jason Kenney making the MLAs gold-plated pension plan an issue. When Kenney went to the Alberta legislature to scrum with the media about politician pensions, Klein waded into the scrum and the two went head-to-head for the cameras. Kenney's cool demeanour and valid criticisms won the debate. Within days, Klein marched into his caucus and informed them that their pensions were gone, not just effective immediately, but retroactive to 1989.

Following the election of a majority Conservative federal government in 2011, the CTF kicked its MP pension reform campaign into high-gear. We found that for every \$1 contributed by MPs toward their pensions, taxpayers were chipping in more than \$23. Action updates were sent, a billboard campaign was launched and a plane was even hired to circle Parliament Hill on the first day of the fall session, trailing a banner that said "Back to Work MPs: Fix your Pensions!" The campaign was successful. Former prime minister Stephen Harper personally turned down \$2.1 million in



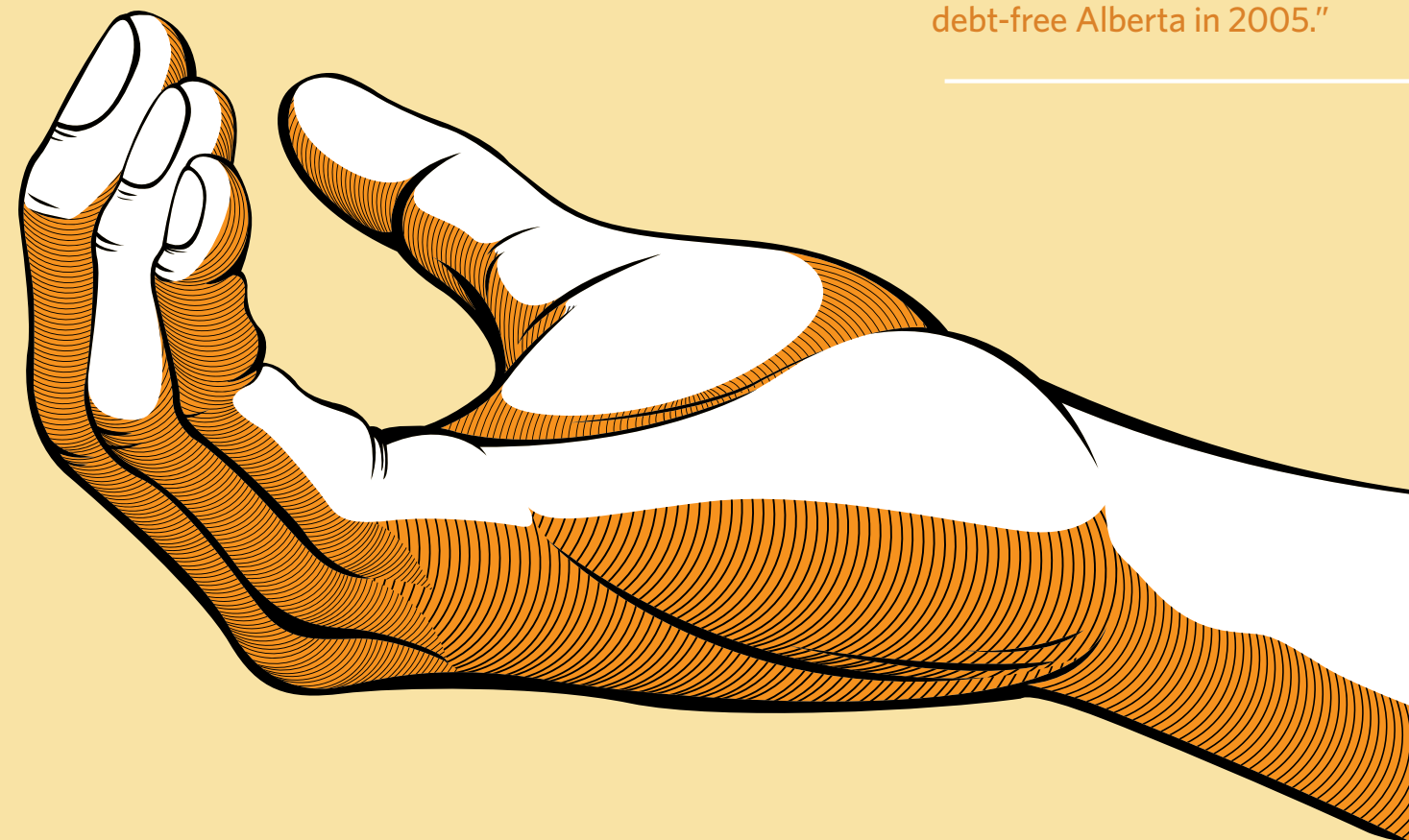
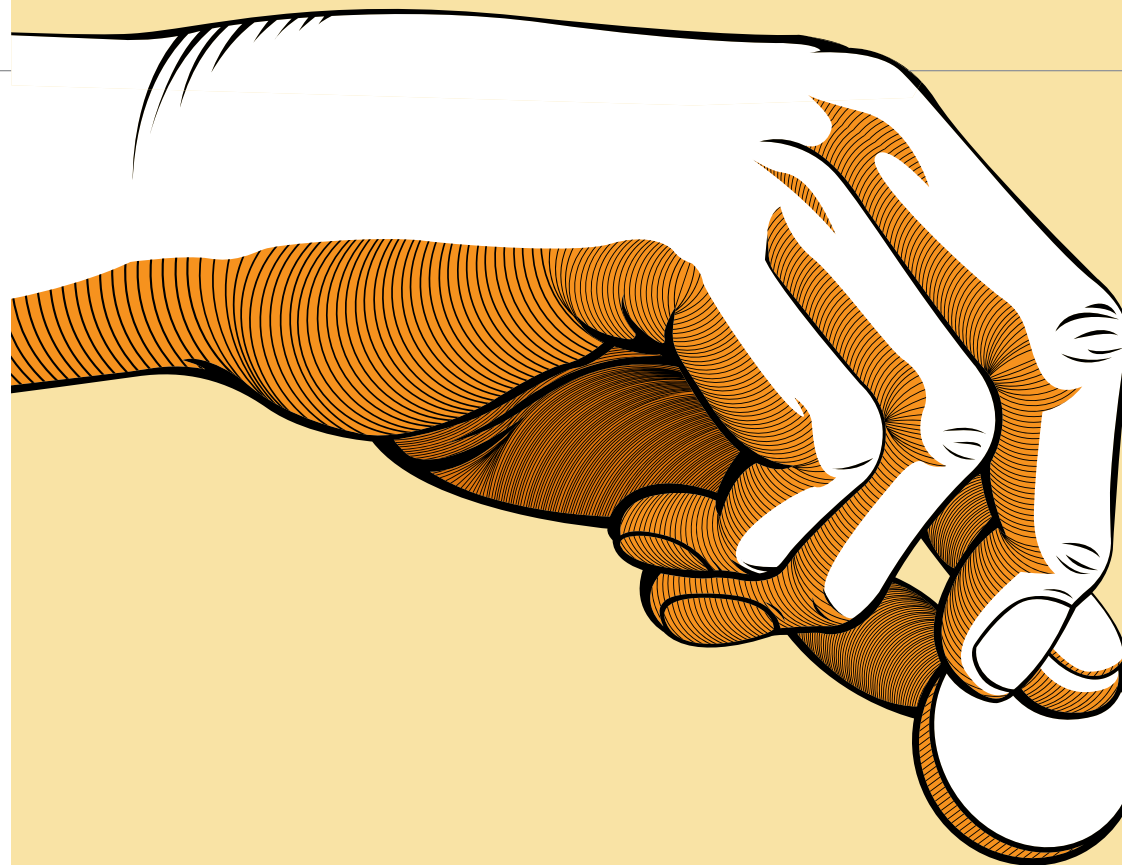
by Franco Terrazzano
Alberta Director



by Aaron Wudrick
Federal Director

“

Not only did Alberta's Klein government listen to CTF calls for balanced budget laws, it enacted balanced budget and debt retirement laws. This resulted in 14 straight years of balanced budgets and the repayment of more than \$22 billion worth of debt, which led to a debt-free Alberta in 2005.”



FEATURE



SLAYING THE DEFICIT AND TACKLING THE DEBT:

No More Taxes Rally in Pickering, ON, attended by 5,500 angry taxpayers in 1995.

POLITICIANS' PAY AND PERKS:

The CTF flew a banner around Parliament Hill on the day MPs returned to Ottawa for the fall session in 2012. MP pensions were reformed shortly after.



FIGHTING FOR LOWER TAXES:

Walter Robinson kicking off the Billion Byte March – our first online petition – opposing bracket creep in 1999.



SHOOTING DOWN THE GUN REGISTRY:

Then-Federal director John Williamson delivering 28,000 signed petitions to former public safety minister Stockwell Day calling for Ottawa to shut down the long-gun registry in June 2006.

INCREASING TRANSPARENCY:

Indigenous activist Phyllis Sutherland and then-CTF Prairie director Colin Craig (right) receive recognition from Prime Minister Stephen Harper for their contribution to the passage of the First Nations Financial Transparency Act. L to R: Then-CTF Federal director Gregory Thomas, Sutherland, Harper, Craig.



BRITISH COLUMBIA'S TRANSLINK TAX:

Then B.C. director Jordan Bateman celebrating the No TransLink Tax referendum victory with dozens of No-side supporters.



OVERCHARGES IN QUÉBEC:

Québec director Renaud Brossard hosting a joint press conference with Parti Québécois MNA Sylvian Gaudreault (left) and Liberal Party MNA Gaetan Barrette (right).

pension payments and Parliament unanimously passed changes that will eventually see the ratio plummet to \$1.62 being contributed by taxpayers for every \$1 contributed by MPs.

FIGHTING FOR LOWER TAXES

Prior to 1986, federal income tax brackets were adjusted each year to match inflation. That year, the cash-strapped Mulroney government de-indexed the brackets, resulting in the stealth tax hike phenomenon known as bracket creep.

Before the 1999 federal budget, we launched a campaign calling for an end to bracket creep. The CTF's campaign reached its climax with then-Federal director Walter Robinson's press conference in October 1999 showing off a pyramid of 9,413 loonies, which symbolized the impact of bracket creep on the average wage earner. As a result, finance minister Paul Martin ended bracket creep.

The CTF has also been successful in lowering provincial taxes and getting several provinces to agree to hold referendums before introducing new taxes or raising tax rates. An example of a successful taxpayer protection law comes from Alberta where the Klein government ensured that a sales tax could only be enacted following a referendum. This law is still in place

today and Alberta is the only province with no PST.

SHOOTING DOWN THE GUN REGISTRY

In 1995, the Chrétien Liberals introduced a universal firearms registry. Given the CTF's roots in rural Western Canada, it generated a massive reaction from our supporters. The gun registry turned out to be a gigantic waste: far from the original estimated cost of \$2 million, by 2004, the price tag had actually exceeded an estimated \$2 billion. The CTF gathered more than 28,000 signatures and presented them to auditor general Sheila Fraser, requesting that she audit the program. She did, and delivered two damning audits highlighting the waste, misspending and attempts to deliberately misinform Parliament as to the program's real costs. The Harper government scrapped the long-gun registry in 2012.

INCREASING TRANSPARENCY

For many years, the CTF heard concerns from people living in First Nations communities because they could not get any financial information from band leadership. In response, we called on the federal government to start posting each band's annual financial statements online, similar to the requirements for municipal, provincial and federal governments.

In 2013, the federal Conservatives got the support of several Liberal MPs to pass the First Nations Financial Transparency Act, which included CTF recommendations. For the first time, people in First Nations communities had the same access to their leaders' financial statements. Best of all, the law did precisely what it was intended to do: it shed light on the extreme cases, such as Chief Ron Giesbrecht of B.C.'s Kwikwetlem First Nation, who earned more than \$914,000 tax-free in 2013.

GAS TAX HONESTY DAY

In 1999, the CTF started an enduring annual tradition: Gas Tax Honesty Day. Unlike sales taxes and income taxes, fuel taxes are largely hidden. Worse, fuel taxes intended for transportation infrastructure can be diverted to all kinds of other pet projects. When we launched this annual tradition, federal and provincial taxes accounted for more than 50% of the pump price. Meanwhile, the federal government was only spending 6% of the \$5 billion it collected each year on road and highway improvement.

Our efforts pushed politicians in the right direction. By 2009, 52% of the federal government's fuel tax revenues were being invested in roads and highways. A couple of provinces have done even better. In the early

2000s, Manitoba and Saskatchewan introduced gas tax accountability acts to ensure gas taxes are dedicated to roads and infrastructure.

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S TRANSLINK TAX

When B.C.'s transportation agency, TransLink, wanted to give itself a 0.5% sales tax we knew we had to lead the No campaign in the regional plebiscite. During the campaign, we published more than 80 examples of TransLink waste, including the \$468,015 salary of TransLink CEO Ian Jarvis, which was more money than the prime minister, premier and the head of every other transit agency in North America received.

The Yes campaign had more than 150 groups on their side: virtually every provincial and municipal political party, unions, environmental groups such as the David Suzuki Foundation, university and student groups, the Vancouver Board of Trade and public health officials. TransLink and the mayors even spent nearly \$7 million of taxpayer money to try to buy the vote. The only thing the Yes campaign didn't have on its side was the people. The CTF-led NO side came from behind in the polls and ultimately won the campaign with 62% of the vote. In the end, the Yes side spent \$23.44 for

every vote they claimed; we spent 8.5 cents for every No vote.

CALGARY'S 2026 OLYMPIC BID BOONDOGGLE

The pet project for Alberta politicians in 2018 was the Calgary bid to host the 2026 winter Olympics. The Olympic bid corporation estimated the games would cost \$5 billion, with taxpayers footing roughly \$3 billion of the total tab through all three levels of government. Early on, the CTF pushed local and provincial politicians to hold a referendum. Then-Alberta premier Rachel Notley agreed and made provincial funding conditional on a successful referendum. As soon as the referendum date was set, the CTF set out to lead the No side.

The CTF faced an uphill battle to take down the well-funded Yes side. The Olympic bid corporation actively pushed pro-games propaganda, all while being funded by tax dollars. Boosters even launched a last-minute, million-dollar ad campaign to try to sway voters. But by supporting whistleblowers, issuing commentaries, debating boosters, doing media interviews, organizing publicity stunts and running a get-out-the-vote campaign, the CTF was able to convince Calgary voters to oppose the bid. In August 2018, polls showed that 53% of Calgarians were planning to vote Yes

However, after the CTF campaign, 56% of Calgarians voted No. Unsurprisingly, the losing Yes side spent a lot more money than our winning No side.

OVERCHARGES IN QUÉBEC

For years, Hydro-Québec overcharged its customers and when Québec Premier François Legault was in opposition, he demanded rebates for Québeckers. When becoming premier though, Legault changed his tune and was perfectly OK with keeping the \$1.5 billion in overcharges in the government's hands. CTF Québec director Renaud Brossard launched a campaign demanding Legault pay back those overcharges to Hydro-Québec consumers.

We launched a petition, similar to the one Legault's party had circulated a few years before, demanding he pay the money back. His original petition took four months to attract 50,000 signatures. It took us less than a month to surpass that number and by the time we delivered it, more than 75,000 Québeckers had joined us in demanding the money be repaid.

After mounting pressure from CTF supporters, the premier tabled a bill which would refund \$500 million in January 2020, freeze rates to refund \$1 billion over five years and reform the way the rates are calculated to avoid the overpayments in the future. **T**

THE FOUNDERS CLUB



by Scott Hennig
President & CEO

Over our 30 years, we have counted hundreds of thousands of Canadians amongst our donors and supporters. Each and every one of those Canadians laid a brick in the organization we were building. A building needs a strong foundation. In the early 1990s, as this organization was getting started, there were thousands of Canadians who believed in the vision and the aim of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation. They made a donation, they signed a petition, they phoned (or maybe faxed...) a politician.

And they haven't looked back. Since then – for the past 25+ years – there have been an astonishing 3,167 Canadians who have continued to support the CTF every single year. These great Canadians built the foundation for this organization. Without their vision and dedication, none of our accomplishments would have been realized. We have set aside a few pages in our 30th anniversary edition of The Taxpayer to thank those individuals. - The Founders Club. In keeping with the important tradition of the secret ballot, we believe in the fundamental right of every Canadian to keep private their political views. We aren't going to thank every one of the 3,167 Canadians in

The Founders Club by name, as many of them prefer not to be recognized. However, many were open to this, and some even sent us photos and messages. We are proud to profile them. If we missed you, please accept our apologies. We went to great lengths to try and contact every person in The Founders Club. We would be delighted to recognize your contribution in a future edition, so please contact us if this interests you. But to every member of The Founders Club, and indeed to every donor that has ever supported the work we do: thank you. Thank you for creating a permanent taxpayer advocacy group. We hope you are proud of all that we have accomplished together.



Alfred (Alf) Otto,
Edmonton, AB



Rudy Brzus,
Buck Lake, AB

Kent Miller, Summerland, BC
Ted (Deceased) & Karen Burnat, Jenner, AB
Doug Wankel, Elbow, SK
Murray Sund, Edmonton, AB
Spencer Cook, Red Deer, AB
John / Kathy Doyle, Netook Construction Ltd. Olds, AB
Frank & Mildred Punk, Middle Lake, SK
Clinton & Judy Brost, Consul, SK
John & Helen Aulie, Fairlight, SK
Jim & Barbara Cochrane, Silverton, MB
John & Shirley Burgeson, Assiniboia, SK
Arthur (Deceased) & Donna Wilkins, Reston, MB
Lawrence & Curtis Weldon, Arborfield, SK
Jim & Scot Scissons, Saskatoon, SK
Doris Damberger, Pincher Creek, AB
James Sheldon, Stonewall, MB
Gene Rusk, Nipawin, SK
Norman Kemp, Bengough, SK
Richard & Darlene Englot, Abernethy, SK
Bill Serhan, Porcupine Plain, SK
Brian Foster, Airdrie, AB
Ghostpine Farms Ltd. Penhold, AB
Norman (deceased) & Melva Wallin, Thompkins, SK
Alf & Edna Peterson, Salmon Arm, BC
Bruce (Deceased) & Geraldine Ellis, Birtle, MB
Jerome & Cheryl Zimmer, Strome, AB
Joe Kutschall, Gull Lake, SK
Eleonora Langer, Edmonton, AB
Tom (Deceased) & Lucille Mitchell, Brandon, MB
Jim Carter, Kenton, MB
Edward & Isabel Szafranski, Edgerton, AB
Michael Ramsay, Cut Knife, SK
Dorothy Piquard, Eastend, SK
Orville & Dorothy Block, Gainsborough, SK
Karl & Glenda Lewisch, Radway, AB
Doug & Pat Olchow, Thorhild, AB
Taras Chwaluk, Oakburn, MB
Louis & Lillian Hebert, Cold Lake, AB
Wayne Hogemann, St. Gregor, SK
Jerry & Denise Dawson, Sundre, AB
Paul & Helen Moure, Rosetown, SK
Martin & Dawn Johnson, Maidstone, SK
Albert Pulak, Westbourne, MB
Alvin & Audrey, Borden, SK

Hardy Gross, Westbourne, MB
Larry & Doreen Lyle, Grandview, MB
Steve Davis, West Vancouver, BC
Alvin & Ursula Schmalz, Shellbrook, SK
Whirl Wind Farms Ltd, Brian & Deb Borgel, Strome, AB
Charles Thompson (deceased), Delia, AB
Adrian Bourne, Unitech Electrical Contracting, Calgary, AB
Charles St. Clair, Ranfurly, AB
David Barss (deceased), Calgary, AB
Bob Hischebett, Regina, SK
Ross D. & Shirley Thompson, Manitou, MB
Nick & Frances Kosowan, Shellbrook, SK
Bernhard & Faye Willer, Assiniboia, SK
Jim Klemke, Regina, SK
Kevin Hampton, Coronation, AB
Gilbert & Priscille Couture, Redvers, SK
Rick Cole, New Norway, AB
C. Co. Farms Ltd, Beiseker, AB
David & Linda Peters, Morden, MB
Thor & Gwen Jonsson, Oakview, MB
Charles & Muriel Boser, Luseland, SK
George Granberg, Ashern, MB
Harold Klassen, Kola Plumbing Ltd, Kola, MB
Darrell & Karen Jespersen, Glory View Farms Ltd, Stony Plain, AB
Theta TTS Inc, Barrie, ON
Alfred G. Molzan, Stump Lake, SK
Dwayne & Lisa Kruger, Saltcoats, SK
Armstrong Hill Crest Cabins, Waskesiu Lake, SK
David & Glenda Peyton, Swan River, MB
Maurice & Florent Lalonde, Zenon Park, SK
Wesley & Wendy Ledding, Parkside, SK
Floyd & Joan McTavish, Foxwarren, MB
Jack & Sandra Bosma, Stettler, AB
Carl & Lois Anderson, Kyle, SK
Danny, Wes & Wilf Sieger, Wildor Farms Ltd, Coronation, AB
Paul Verhesen, Edmonton, AB
Bill & Lina Kovacs, Bellevue, SK
Bev & Carol Penman, Czar, AB
Barry & Elaine Johannesson, Arnes, MB
G. Watson, Barrie, ON
Century Electric (1985) Ltd. Calgary, AB
Joan Lepard, Erskine, AB
Harry Swanson, Lethbridge, AB
Ben & Jackie Chapchuk, Alder Flats, AB
Don & Betty Huston, Red Deer, AB
John Mans, Phoenix Farms Ltd, Nobleford, AB
Cecil Blackburn, Pincher Creek, AB
Tony Bolbecher, Armstrong, BC
Clayton Schoeler, Biggar, SK
William F. Metzler, Pincher Creek, AB
Joe, Wayne & Sherry Maier, Maier Ranching Ltd, Paradise Hill, SK
Henry & Henrietta Bremer, Enderby, BC

IN RECOGNITION of our 30th anniversary, a member of The Founders Club and owner of 3D Petroleums Ltd. has generously offered to match any new or increased donation to the Canadian Taxpayers Federation until the end of the year, up to a total of \$100,000.

There's never been a better time to make your first donation or increase your support for the organization.

Tony Beyak in Memory, Dryden, ON
"The late Tony Beyak and his colleagues proudly founded a Fort Frances, Ontario branch with Ontarian Frank Sheehan in 1990, and we are committed life members."

Boris Luciw, Dot Transmissions Ltd. Edmonton, AB "DOT Transmissions has been in business for 41 years and has been proud to be associated with the CTF. Thank you for all that you have accomplished on our behalf."

Harold & Maxine Bartelen, Strathmore, AB
Evelyn Mackenzie, Winnipeg, MB "The CTF continues to scrutinize and keep in line governments. Thanks for all you do to protect the taxpayer."

Dr. David Weeks, Rangeland Veterinary Clinic, Consort, AB "The battle has never been more important."

Betty Deyell, Wainwright, AB "I am very worried about our country. Thank goodness for the CTF!"

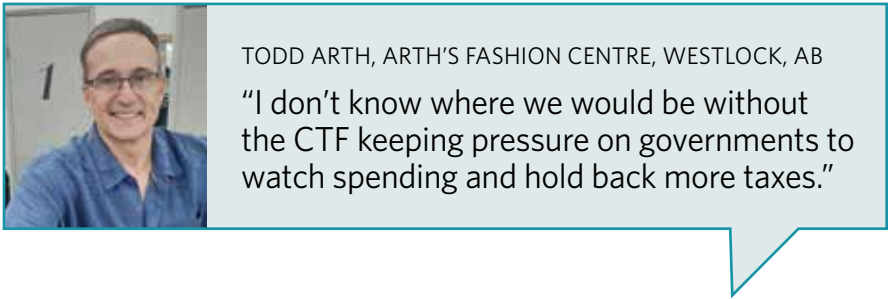


JOHN SOLONINKO was a member of our The Founders Club, making his first donation to the Canadian Taxpayers Federation in 1992. Sadly, John passed away in 2017, but his passion for the mission of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation lives on. In his memory, John’s wife Barb has established the John Soloninko endowment fund which is directed to support programing for young Canadians. Interest gained from the fund each year helps support the CTF’s Generation Screwed initiative and internship program.

If you are interested in learning more about the CTF’s Legacy Program, contact Rick Pepper at rpepper@taxpayer.com.



Brian Roelofs, Mo-Tires Ltd, Lethbridge, AB
Gale S. Stitt, Calgary, AB
Byland Custom Builders Ltd, Edmonton, AB
Bruce Bouwsema, Lethbridge, AB
Eric (deceased) & Doris Holt, Moose Jaw, SK
David Hagen, Edmonton, AB
Duane & Claire Horinek, Kinsella, AB
Henry, Elaine & Glen Little, Hazlet, SK
Collin & Bob Rowe, JDR North Enterprises, Sturgeon County, AB
Alpine Drywall, Lethbridge AB
Norbert Wasylenko, Rayner Agencies Ltd, Saskatoon, SK
Steve Robertson, Cranbrook, BC
Kevin Wicke, Stratford, ON
Lyle Nelson, Bawlf, AB
Murray & Carolyn Herbert, Herbert Family Farm, Edberg, AB



Shalki Rana, Edmonton, AB
Harvey Stambuski, Morden, MB
Gary Palidwar, 55 North Construction & Cabinetry, Nipawin, SK
Atlas Industries, Saskatoon, SK
Fred & Mildred Thiele, Yorkton, SK
Booth Burnett Insurance Ltd., Saskatoon, SK
Harry & Edith Hinch, Lethbridge, AB
Ray & Sharon, Prairie Pump Service, Weyburn, SK
Chad & Rodney Friesen, N&A Trucking Ltd, Niverville, MB
Robert Bernie, Lethbridge, AB
Allen & Grace Hillsden, Regina, SK
John & Jean Berger, Nanton, AB
Don & Charlotte Payak, Weyburn, SK
Delco Fireplaces Ltd, Langley, BC
Don & Marjorie Karl, Lethbridge, AB
Stan & Jean McNab, McNab Ranch Ltd., Fort MacLeod, AB
Roland & Rose Goertz, Stony Plain, AB
Bob & Elaine Niccolls, Niccolls Mobility Plus, Rosetown, SK
Paul Ruecker, Lemberg, SK
Doug & Robin Minish, Rosetown, SK
Len & Jane Levandoski, Polonia, MB
Peter & Diane Kooy, Nobleford, AB
Dean Holzapfel, Indian Head, SK
Robert Anderson, Calgary, AB

Jake & Lorraine Fehr, Canwood, SK
Ken & Micki Ewert, Surrey, BC
Farley & Judy Harvey, Leduc County, AB
Neil Regier & Pauline Steinmann, Waldheim, SK
Rick Friesen, Winkler, MB
Bernie Johnson, Stavely, AB
Broomfield Farms Ltd., Stavely, AB
Doug Hunter, Calgary, AB
Dennis & Marie Johnston, Norquay, SK
Albert Henne, Kelfield, SK
Mid West Packaging Limited, Winnipeg, MB
Robert Jones, Westlock, AB
Muriel Mogck, Medicine Hat, AB
Marshal & Zenia Maydanski, Chipman, AB
Gary Lukawesky, Edmonton AB

David Bergman, Morden, MB
Alvin & Jenny Vust, Portage La Prairie, MB
Adam & Helen Singer, Mission, BC
Lloyd & Lorraine Cavers, Neepawa, MB
Kent Zbaraschuk, Prince Albert, SK
Igor Shaskin, Stafford Pharmacy & Home Healthcare, Lethbridge, AB
Gary McNeil, Coquitlam, BC
Glen & Tammy Gray, Aylsham, SK
Gerald & Julie Kobelsky, Landis, SK
Bob & Gwen Anderson, Ayland Farms Ltd., Aylsham, SK
Darlene Johnson, Carrot River, SK
Barry Montgomery, Nanton, AB
Frank Baumann, Swift Current, SK
Jim Linklater, Coulee, SK
The Bartz Family, Bruderheim, AB
Ken Paterson, Neepawa, MB
Ross Madsen (deceased), Wauchope, SK
Bouma Meats Ltd., Provost, AB
Karen & Ed Spruyt, Tail Creek Energy Services Ltd. Erskine, AB
Alex Campbell, Calgary, AB
Annette & Denis Boutin, Alida, SK
Keith Gilchrist, Pickardville, AB
Charles & Beth Bagshaw, Stettler, AB
3 Y Holdings Ltd, Edmonton, AB
Doug & Marilyn Pawsey, Edgerton, AB
Bert & Velma Cummer, Roseisle, MB



Archie Gale, Westlock Inn, Edmonton/
Westlock, AB

Paul Norton, Castor, AB
Dennis & Doreen Lang, Lang Farms Ltd., Nipawin, SK
Gilbert Kuzyk, Kuzyk Brothers, Newbrook, AB
Don & Bonnie Johnson, Cypress River, MB
Fred & Norma Watson, Plumas, MB
Charlie & Hazel Woolford, Cardston, AB
Kevin Mazurek, Mazurek Industries Ltd., Carrot River, SK
Fred & Anne Munchrath, Strathmore, AB
Margaret Newell, Arborfield, SK
Central Cedar Ltd, Surrey, BC
Coral International Truck Equipment Ltd, Langley, BC
Dale Keddy, Ladysmith, BC
Pacific Injection Moulding, Abbotsford, BC
Olive Johnson, Cypress River, MB
L. Wayne Anderson, Cypress River, MB
Pacific Powertech Inc. Port Coquitlam, BC
Peak Construction Ltd, Surrey, BC
Jack / Ken Gordon, Baldur, MB
B. Jolly Enterprises, Saskatoon, SK
Integrity Oilfield Inc., Eckville, AB
Mike Mario, Regina, SK
James & Irene Christensen, Christensen Bee Ranch Ltd, Mallaig, AB
Jim Staple, Sceptre, SK
Ron & Sharon Hierath, Lethbridge, AB
Dorn Andersen, Calgary, AB
Danny Bernard, Donalda, AB
Dale Dallas, Conquest, SK
Warren & Heather Thompson, Pense, SK
Ralph & Bertha Jones, Czar, AB
Dennis & Elaine Helfer, Donalda, AB
Ron & Brad Scharf, Elron Ent. Ltd, La Riviere, MB
Anne McDonald, Crystal City, MB
Richard Klassen, Silver Springs Grain Farm Ltd, La Riviere, MB
Ernie Cavers, La Riviere, MB
Brad & Heather Wallace, Wallace Farms Ltd, Pilot Mound, MB
Allen & Beverley Hagel, Estevan, SK
Ron & Sheila Settler, Phoenix Auto Body Limited, Lucky Lake, SK
Doug & Colleen Gillespie, Maple Coulee Ranch Ltd., Neville, SK
James McGillivray, Central Butte, SK
Carl & Lynne Brown, Lucky Lake, SK
Thomas Runcie, Pambrun, SK
Ernest & Margo Carlson, Pennant, SK
Brian & Carolyn Otto, Warner, AB
Craig & Marcella Van Stryland, Clive, AB

Ken T. Allen, Edmonton, AB
John & Marlene Hendricks, Milden, SK
Allan Larson, Wymark, SK
Hingston Metal Fabricators, St. Catharines, ON
John Lee, Top's Lighting, Vancouver, BC
Gerald & Louise Dyke, Grenfell, SK
Bruce & Pat Gilmore, Kelwood, MB
Walter & Martha Wiebe, Kelwood, MB
Ronald Hewitt, Coronation, AB
Janet Zimmer, Coronation Tire & Rubber Ltd, Coronation, AB
Con-Spec Industries Ltd, Edmonton, AB
Robert & Ella Lee, Camrose, AB
Tom Quigley, Edmonton, AB
Violet & Wayne Fletcher, Kelvington, SK
Larry & Murielle Kesenheimer, Pierceland, SK
Brian Percival, Deloraine, MB
Clare & Donna Phillips, Hartney, MB
Leary & Donna Redmond, Beechy, SK
Ben & Karen Richardson, Beechy, SK
Marion De Jongh, Camrose, AB
Doug & Linda Baker, Newdale, MB
Ron & Valinda Wilkinson, Oil Tec Services Ltd., Yellow Grass, SK
Len & Margaret Bowman, Marelen Holsteins Ltd, Chilliwack, BC
Monty McKenzie, Strasbourg, SK
John Georgison, Winnipeg, MB
Dan & Hertha Penner, Killarney, MB
Mainland Floral Ltd. Aldergrove, BC
Art Wolf, Craven, SK
Gilbert Remillard, Somerset, MB
James E Bond, Edmonton, AB
Kevin Neely, Swan River, MB
Tom Wraight, Coronation, AB
Earl & Joanne Hrappestead, Swan River, MB
Lyndon Headrick, Limerick, SK
Dennis & Ruth Reimer, Hudson Bay, SK
Chris & Kathy Brown, Minnedosa, MB
Bruce & Lisa Sneesby, Westbourne, MB
Bert Stueck, Abernethy, SK
John Manuel, Maple Ridge, BC
Barry & Barbara Gillies, Gillies Enterprises Inc, Estevan, SK
Paul Crane, Crane Steel Structures, Brandon, MB
Glen & Carleen Hamilton, Hamco Cattle Co., Glenboro, MB
Jack & Esther Holyk, Minnedosa, MB
Abe & Mary Unrau, Winkler, MB
Stanley & Louise Hodgson, St. Louis, SK
Herb & Shirley Watson, Portage La Prairie, MB
Balcarres Agencies, Balcarres, SK
Ken & Velma Neumann, Saskatoon, SK
James & Joanne Ross, Mistatim, SK
Dean & Barb Smith, Regina, SK

Brian & Dawn Cleveland, Westlock, AB
“Thanks for keeping us informed as to where all our taxes go.”

Glenn Gordon, Saskatoon, SK
“Canadian Taxpayers Federation is a much needed organization to keep all governments accountable.”

Al Romanchuk, Kelowna, BC
“The Taxpayer? A very worthwhile publication.”

Denise Bratland, Lougheed, AB “Thank you for helping keep our governments in check. You provide a valuable voice.”

Olee Wowk, Edmonton, AB “I was approached by a representative of the CTF around 1990 to join and I did. After a couple of years went by I was approached by a new representative which was Mr. Jason Kenney, now Premier of Alberta. I have always felt that someone had to be a voice for the common taxpayer.”

MARK H. SWITZER, LETHBRIDGE, AB



“Canadian Taxpayers Federation keeps fire to the feet of governments at all levels and plays an important advocacy role for small business in identifying waste and red tape burdens that affect the success of our operations. I am proud to be a member of this vital organization for over 25 years.”



TIM GOULD, RICHMOND, BC
“Congratulations to the Canadian Taxpayers Federation for all you have done over the years on our behalf. Much appreciated!”

Doug & Michele Rutley Chilliwack, BC
Ben & Karen Lewans, Shaunavon, SK
Laird & Margaret Murray, Tompkins, SK
Duane Nelson Hill, Vulcan, AB
Charles & Marlys Anderson, MC3 Farms Ltd., Rose Valley, SK
Chris & Arlene Irwin, Krleen Farms Ltd., Vulcan, AB
Mac Chain Company Ltd, Surrey, BC
Greg Honey Bracken, SK



Stan & Josephine Graves, Clyde, AB

Gerald & Bernice Junk, Humboldt, SK
Cliff & Pam Frank, Humboldt, SK
Keith Burton, Dinsmore, SK
Linn Ptolemy, Dinsmore, SK
Harold & Colleen Jenkins, Jenkins Farm, Humboldt, SK
Jack & Lorrie Marksteiner, Humboldt, SK
Ken & Merle Shaw, Shaunavon, SK
Gary & Shirley Smith, Shaunavon, SK
Doug & Cheryl Inverarity, Dinsmore, SK
Raymond & Karen Peterson, Climax, SK
Winston Parker, Okotoks, AB
Clint & Linda Straub, Strathmore, AB
Harvey Antonsen, Aldergrove, BC
Fred Knopper, Holland Farms, Leduc, AB
Lorne Smith, Moose Jaw, SK
Dennis & Bonnie Dell, Wynyard, SK
Paul Lachambre, Edmonton, AB
G. Weinstock, Toronto, ON
Byron & Kathryn Craik, Moose Jaw, SK
Doug & Linda Wilton, Jadee Elm Farm Ltd, Carman, MB
Henderik & Lucina Koster, Kosterina Farms Ltd, Carman, MB
Douglas & Janice Sisson, Carman, MB
Gus & Judy Verniest, Holland, MB
Hugh & Rose Morrow, Morden, MB
Ron & Brian McGorman, Neepawa, MB
Gerry Hildebrand, Three Hill Farms Ltd, Winkler, MB
Albert & Kathy Peters, Winkler, MB
Dave E. & Anne Wiebe, Winkler, MB
Fasteel Industries Ltd, Surrey, BC



ED LORENZ, FRECHMAN BUTTE, SK
“Keep up your good work! Seems governments lack accountability for use of our tax dollars, more now than ever!”

Dennis & Marie Fagnou, St. Brieux, SK
Robert Phillips, Milo, AB
Henry Rietveld, Airdrie, AB
Stuart & Josina, Durban, MB
Tim Naber, Shellbrook, SK
Glen Wolamuk, Athabasca, AB
Terry VanDasselaar, Fontaine Farms, Carman, MB
Terry Termeer, Carman, MB
Lyll & Lois Allison, Roland, MB
Max Stuber, Southey, SK
Ian Donovan, Mossleigh, AB



P. Scheck Industrial Electric Ltd, Quesnel, BC

Richard Davis, Shaunavon, SK
Brian & Karen Stevenson, Shaunavon, SK
James Mason, Watrous, SK
Dave Millar, Millar Auto Machine Co. Ltd., Winkler, MB
Tony Gaudet, Bellevue, SK
John & Gail Penkala, Archerwill, SK



Charlie Prichuk, Kinuso, AB



Gordon & Marjorie Classen (deceased), Aylsham, SK

Ralph, Stephen & James Smith, James Smith & Sons, Eckville, AB
Jeff & Laurie Miller, Calgary, AB

Richard & Brenda Peters, Brandon, MB
Dale & Irma Northcott, Melfort, SK
Dale & Donna Durrant, Moose Jaw, SK
Terry Guenther, Swift Current, SK
Chris & Rick Brown, Katepwe Farms, Indian Head, SK
Arthur & Lois Loewen, Chilliwack, BC

Harold Janzen, Marsh River Farms Ltd, Morris, MB
Doug & Karen Brown, Choiceland, SK
Kim & Jan Rothwell, Choiceland, SK
Rick & Dianne Van Dalfsen, Leduc, AB
Eddie & Leonard Wolffe, Cudworth, SK
Don & Annette Verniest, Holland, MB
Brad & Sharon Steinke, Mantario, SK
Peter & Bruce Gatzsch, Lignum Interiors Inc., Calgary, AB
Weathertech, Dorchester, ON
Richard & Betty Brooks, Wynyard, SK
Kam & Sherry Leung, Calgary, AB
Willow View Farms, Abbotsford, BC
Ted, Gail & Trevor, Bashaw, AB
McLean Scale Co. Ltd, London, ON
Murray & Lorna Richardson, MLR Ventures Ltd., Kindersley, SK
Bill & Pearl Nieboer, Nieboer Farm Supplies (1977) Ltd., Nobleford, AB
Jason Little, Little's Redi-Mix Ltd., Tisdale, SK
Charlie & Sandy Newton, Penhold, AB
Gary & Jean Rice, Tisdale, SK
Ed Rostaing, Bawlf, AB
Canadian Horizontal Drilling Ltd, Wetaskiwin, AB
C.J. Pink Ltd, London, ON
Brent Metzker, Wetaskiwin, AB
Ewald Braun, Red Deer County, AB
Leah Cooper, Laporte, SK
Martin & Lorraine Otteson, Neilburg, SK
Marlin & Merna Pilatus, Hepburn, SK
Doug & Carol Bailey, Eaton, SK
Dan & Dorothy Jeffery, Ponoka, AB
Frank Kendall, Lacombe, AB
Trevor Michel, Michel's Industries Ltd., St. Gregor, SK

Martin & Linda Kunz, Humboldt, SK
John & Irene Van Muyen, I & J Metal Fabrication, Abbotsford, BC
Tom & Sandy Borstmayer, Borstmayer Farms Ltd., Naicam, SK
Warren Bell, Innisfail, AB
Eric & Laurie Laughlin, Rosedale, BC
Paul & Judy Ulrich, Spalding, SK



Bruce Puetz, Humboldt, SK

Roger & Jane Muir, Rosedale, BC
Ronald & Renata, Millet, AB
Francis & Lillian Lueke, Wadena, SK
Beverley & Jeanette Schoff, Bashaw, AB
Big Rose Colony, Biggar, SK
John (deceased) & Marilyn Hoegl, Hoegl Farms, Lloydminster, SK
Harvey Staudinger, Marianne Farms, Sylvan Lake, AB
May McKnight, Red Deer County, AB
Jonas Hoegl, Balancesoil Farm Ltd., Lloydminster, SK
Dave Dowler (deceased), Boston Pizza, Wetaskiwin, AB
Reg & Cathy Minchau, Millet, AB
John & Rosemarie Perrot, Naicam, SK
Robert & Vivian Nelson, Great Western Grain Co., Lloydminster, SK
Rick Kemp, Kemp Farms Ltd., Red Deer County, AB
Jim & Pearl McIlveen, High River, AB
Wayne Bennett, Calgary, AB
Hil Reine, Edmonton, AB
Lyn & Eugene Yaremko, Edmonton, AB
Robert MacDonald, Keles Production, Calgary, AB
Mike Gies, Calgary, AB
Mike & Wayne Oegema, Oegema Turkey Farms Inc., St. Thomas, ON
Andrew Pothier, Delta, BC
Les White, Davidson, SK
Tim & Janice Manz, Davidson, SK
Bob & Ellen Cornish, Rocky View County, AB
Eleanor McMahon, Kinley, SK
Anthony Peter, Bawlf, AB
Carl & Grace Primus, Westeros, AB



LILLIAN ROSS, DRAYTON VALLEY, AB
“We go merrily on our way thinking, ‘Daddy is looking after us.’ But thanks to the CTF we know we often have our heads in the sand.”

Eric & Leona Beamish, Lloydminster, AB
Liz Picketts, Asquith, SK
Donald & Arlene Hollman, Lloydminster, SK
Ben Driessen, Driessen Farms Ltd, Deroche, BC
Jeannine McNabb, Davidson, SK
Greg Putnam, Watson, SK
Ralph Lohmeier, Edmonton, AB
Kirstie Smolyk, Edmonton, AB
Garth Forrest, North Vancouver, BC
Brian & Sandra Heaman, Hargrave, MB
Kenneth & Marjorie Janes, Lestock, SK
Cyril & Shirley Hood, Foam Lake, SK
Action Equipment Rentals Inc., Red Deer, AB
Lorne & Irene Acton, ILA Farms Ltd, Unity, SK
Bar L9 Farms, Ponoka, AB
Wayne & Karen Morrison, Davidson, SK
Kurt & Mary Nieth, Quill Lake, SK
Jim & Jacquie Nodge, Craik, SK
Gerald Van Seters, Coaldale, AB
Bryan & Joan Rayner, Battleford, SK
Josh Hengen, Sundre, AB
Calvin Lauber, Beaver County, AB
Arnold & Susan Ramm, Edberg, AB
Howard & Mavis Slack, Slack's Accounting & Income Tax, White City, SK
Bev Dahl, Eaton, SK
Robert, Steve & Rosemary Snider, Little Red Hen Mills, New Norway, AB
Bill Meek, Unity, SK
Lorne & Dianne Rennie, Kelvington, SK
Norman & Darlaine Andersen, Salmon Arm, BC
Peter Piers, County of Barrhead, AB
Tom Nott, Innisfree, AB
Stan & Brenda Matthews, Lacombe, AB
Marcel & Marie-Paule Delorme, St. Joseph, MB
George Fletcher, Swift Current, SK
Brad Montgomery, Bonnyville, AB
John & Joyce Bugg, Paynton, SK
Gemco Construction Ltd, Langley, BC
Bourgault Tillage Tools Ltd., St. Brieux, SK
Ralph & Gary Richards, Olds, AB
Isla Solanik, Biggar, SK
Harvey Vikse, Camrose, AB
Hodgson Freightway Ltd, Surrey, BC
Lewcam Holdings Ltd, Drayton Valley, AB

Cliff Grazier, Swan River, MB
“Thanks CTF for all you do!”

Ryan Griffin, Edmonton, AB
“I believe the organization plays an important role in keeping governing bodies in check while protecting the best interest of the Canadian taxpayer, business owners and employees alike.”

Brian Sumner, Winnipeg, MB
“Very happy to support CTF.”

Roly & Susan Purcell, Hudson Bay, SK
“Thank you for all your hard work.”

Reggie & Marilynn, Semeniuk, Smoky Lake, AB
“Long time believers.”

Larry Sears, Stavely, AB
“Keep up the good work!”

Brittain Transport Ltd, Wetaskiwin, AB
“Keep up the battle.”

Kirk MacKenzie, Surrey, BC
“Keep up the fight.”

Earl & Marg Priest, Priest Farms, Lloydminster, SK
Vernon & Lynn Priest, Lloydminster, SK
Ian & Elaine Kaiser, Sundre, AB
Jim Thomson, Olds, AB
Melvin & Sig (deceased) Moltzan, M & M Mufflers Ltd. (Carline), Drayton Valley, AB
Ivan & Marie Cornelson, Cornelson Cattle, Drayton Valley, AB
Joe Moreau, Medicine Hat, AB
Garnet & Helen Fawcett, Moosomin, SK
Art Klassen, Klassen Ranching Ltd., Big Stone, AB
Border Paving Ltd, Red Deer, AB
Chris & Henrietta Groenendijk, Greendike Farm Ltd, Chemainus, BC



Barry & Elaine Ducherer, River Hill Farm Ltd, Neilburg, SK


Kevin Pike, Maidstone, SK
Victor & Linda Lee, Hawarden, SK
Adrian & Louise Hume, Maidstone, SK



COLETTE MCKILLOP,
MAYERTHORPE, AB

“Happy 30th anniversary Canadian Taxpayers Federation! Thank you for all the good you do!”

B & D Farm Ltd., Maidstone, SK
Edward Rowell, Olds, AB
Barry Steiner, Windshield Wizard, Saskatoon, SK
Marie & Andy Bodnar Jr., Bandrova Farms Ltd., Agassiz, BC
John Tap, Chilliwack, BC



Susan Smith, Northern Industrial Plating, Saskatoon, SK

Brian Rudosky, Daysland, AB
Trevor Harris & Valerie Fair, Grove Crest Farms, Delta, BC
Vandex Manufacturing Ltd, Delaware, ON
Glen & Sharon James, Carstairs, AB
Ian & Peggy McKenzie, Lloydminster, SK
Martha Holzer, Estevan, SK
Victor & Bev Hult, Hult Farm Ltd., Lloydminster, AB
Blouin Farm Ltd., Delmas, SK
Fred & Lucy Newsome, Didsbury, AB
Sher-Lok Hose & Fittings, Delta, BC
Scott & Darren Saxton, M & M Glass, Surrey, BC
Barry Leisle, Leisle Enterprises Ltd., Morse, SK
Ken & Shawna Fordice, Fordice Farms, Galahad, AB
Glenn Pastl, Watson, SK
Oscar & Sherry Baker, Lac Ste Anne, AB
Silvio & Gail Bertoia, Lloydminster, AB
Donald & Elaine Fulton, Lloydminster, SK
Norma Stobbe, Onoway, AB
Robert Krueger, Borden, SK
Aloysuis & Delores Lipoth, Waldron, SK
Richard & Mary Pflieger, Onoway, AB
Allan & Charlene Hubbard, Carnduff, SK
Ken & Elaine Morgan, Gainsborough, SK
Beverly Beckett, Saskatoon, SK
Marcel & Linda Ruest, Admiral, SK
Laurie Lautenslager, Calgary, AB
Armand & Sylvia Dorais, Gravelbourg, SK

BRUCE BURNS, CALGARY, AB


“Shining light on waste and corruption. Always worthwhile.”

Dan & Lorna Narkaus, Winfield, AB
Roger & Dolores Blanchard, Saskatoon, SK
Cliff Begg, Buck Lake, AB
Charles & Claire Shira, Spiritwood, SK
Dave & Lorelei Loewen, Didsbury, AB
Ronald & DeAnne Needham, Oxbow, SK
Trent & Sandra Peel, Miniota, MB
Jack & Shirley Twietmeyer, Oxbow, SK
Robert Wanless, Wanless Farms Ltd, Belmont, MB
Reeds Valley Farm Ltd. Bryon & Della Reeds, Maidstone, SK
PTI Transformers, Regina, SK




Jim & Belva Martin,
Cameo Holdings Inc.,
Laporte, SK

Jack R. Sisko, Calgary, AB
Walter Gilding, Calgary, AB
Will & Val Dillen, Ponoka, AB
Thomas & Gweneth Kibblewhite, Vermilion, AB
Ken & Lois McCormick, Prince Albert, SK
Maurice Merkosky, Davidson, SK
Patricia & Jeffery Smith, Brampton, ON
Darren Smith, Edmonton, AB



WILLIAM FELDSTEIN, CALGARY, AB


“The CTF consistently stands up for ordinary Canadians. It protects us all from those politicians that always think their pet projects and spending habits are more important than the priorities of taxpayers.”



HARRY MEYERS, OUTLOOK, SK

“Keep up the great work. You have my full support.”

Sandra Glover, Morse, SK
Walter Steinke, Medicine Hat, AB
J Reed & Evelyn Francis, Ardrossan, AB
Alan & Doreen Short, Medstead, SK
Ralph & Carol Maier, Cochrane, AB
Robyn Meyer, Gilbert Plains, MB
Gordon Sherman, Rabbit Lake, SK



Howard Christensen,
Calgary, AB

Donald & Constance McMahon, Galahad, AB
Boyd's Garage, Medstead, SK
Victor Pushee, Mayfair, SK
Giles Midtown Auto Body, Elrose, SK
George Constantinides, Contempora Steel Builders Ltd., Winnipeg, MB
Larry Allan, Creelman, SK
Doug & Jolene Kochendorfer, Valhalla Centre, AB
Henry & Carol Lynass, Delburne, AB

Jack & Sheila Dietrich, Mendham, SK
Jim Winterhalt, Unity, SK
George Sanders, Altamont, MB
George Minaker, Rosser, MB
John & Mary Dafoe, Parkland County, AB
Brian & Brenda Laboucane, St. Walburg, SK
Mose Martin's Garage Ltd, St. Jacobs, ON
Ron Hall, Calgary, AB
Ken Wright, Piapot, SK
Carman & Laura Falloon, Birtle, MB
Glenn & Eleanor Kochendorfer, Valhalla Centre, AB
Peter, Helen & Harvey Kroeker, Belmont, MB
Alvin & Lorna Johnson, Lor-Al Springs Ltd, Rimbey, AB
Brian Pescitelli, Jones Food Store Equipment, Burnaby, BC
Wangler Construction, Wilkie, SK
Casey & Rosalie Slingerland, Coalhurst, AB
Y Coulee Land & Cattle Co. Ltd, Frenchman Butte, SK
Selby Porter, Calgary AB



CLAY & BARB CHRISTIANSEN, MAIDSTONE, SK

“Keep up the pressure on our government waste.”

Norma & Terry Close, Houston, BC
“Keep up the good work, your presence is needed more than ever.”

Jake Klooster, Rocky Mountain House, AB
“Join us in fighting the government to stop spending our tax dollars unwisely!”

Clifford & Marlene Brown, Lethbridge, AB
“Happy to support an organization that is willing to fight for justice and equality in our country.”

C Clark, Airdrie, AB **“Keep up the good work, we need all the help we can get.”**

Bob Richards, Airdrie, AB **“The CTF does a great job, keep it up guys.”**


Kenneth Kendze, Edmonton, AB
“The best and most informative news available. Thanks again for keeping the pressure on governments.”

Bruce Davies, Vernon, BC **“CTF continues to be tops in holding our different levels of government accountable.”**

Elizabeth (Betty) Milne, Parkland County, AB **“CTF has a valuable publication and is a group who work hard and productively to keep Canada a great place to live. Thank you, CTF.”**

Myron Music, Winnipeg, MB **“A timely and comprehensive coverage of tax matters across the country.”**

Lewis & Jane Elzinga, Yellowhead County, AB **“The Canadian Taxpayers Federation has given us a voice!”**



EDWARD GOODLIFFE, BUSBY, AB

“The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is our best defence from the never ending plunder of taxation.”

Jim Delaney, Edmonton, AB **“I do not know of a better organization than CTF that protects Canadians from governments wasting taxpayers money.”**

Kelly Overbo, Kinsella, AB
“Keep up the good work.”

Jerry McInnis, Diversified Glycol, Red Deer, AB **“Your services should not be necessary, but I'm grateful for the work you do. Thank you!”**

Jack Seewalt, Vermilion, AB **“I believed in this group from the start and still do.”**

Calvin & Lynn Warwick, Grenfell, SK
“Keep up the good work!!”

John & Leona, Carman, MB
“Good to have someone speak up for you. Thank you.”

Leonard Tieszen, Hepburn, SK **“We appreciate the work that you are doing!”**

Murray Farness, Ohaton, AB
“Keep up the good work!”

Leslie & Anne Mulhbach, County of Stettler, AB **“Appreciate having a voice through the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.”**

Donald E Cutts, Ottawa, ON **“I joined the CTF in order to help rein in profligate government spending.”**

Bruce Sigurdson, Arborg, MB **“Keep up the good work going after these wasteful politicians and bureaucrats!!”**

Delmer Bjorkland, Ottawa, ON
“Governments need watchdogs, not just internal scrutineers but outside independent watchdogs. People and organizations need to insist on transparency and accountability. The CTF is one of the best of these.”

Kelly Meade, CPA/CGA Abbotsford, BC
“I am a small business owner who believes in free enterprise.”

Durwin & Helen Weatherald, Wawota, SK
“Keep up the good work you do.”

Roland & Darlene Carles, Radville, SK
“It is good to have a organization to keep us informed on how our money is being spent or wasted by our government. Regular media does not inform us these matters.”

Byron & Vicki Hart, B V Farms Ltd, Vermillion, AB
“Thanks for representing us.”

Reno & Corine Welsch, Pincher Creek, AB
“We need organizations like the Canadian Taxpayers Federation fighting government waste and corruption.”

Doug Martens, Estevan, SK
“Every taxpaying Canadian should support the CTF!”

Gerald Fuglerud, Estevan, SK
“Keep up the much need work.”

Downey Diamond D Farms Ltd, Melita, MB **“We like the way that the CTF keeps tabs on our governments and works to keep them accountable.”**

Barrie G. Rogers, Nanaimo, BC **“Always appreciate the work you do.”**

Larry & Gail Busch, Ashern, MB **“Still paying taxes for Trudeau Sr. debt and now we have Trudeau Jr. piling on taxes.”**

MURRAY & TERESA ORMBERG, RIMBEY, AB

“Our blood pressure goes up when the magazine arrives! It never ceases to amaze us of the waste of our taxpayer dollars and I don’t think they even feel guilty. After 25 years one would hope that less of these things would happen. Thank you to all the hard work done by the staff to help expose these items. I am sure there are many items that don’t even make the magazine. If only more people cared, perhaps the CTF wouldn’t have to do it for another 25 years. We need to stand up more for common sense in our governments. Perhaps then we would not have things like the WE charity boondoggle. Governments should be afraid of the people and not the other way around.”



GARY & DENISE MUNFORD,
MCCORD, SK

“Proud to support such a
vital organization”

Gary & Marian Hovdebo, Stony Plain, AB
Ralph & Liz Retzlaff, Rosemary, AB
Stamer Logging Ltd, Barriere, BC
David Gillatt, Maymont, SK
Doug & Alice Grigor, Mayfair, SK
Norm & Diana Ritter, Southey, SK



Herb & Joyce Frank,
Eatonia, SK



Jerome & Garnet
Nunweiler, Nunweiler
Acres Ltd, Eatonia, SK

Andrew & Stuart Assinger, Assinger
Lumber Ltd., Stony Plain, AB
Bryon & Lana Medcoff, Kindersley, SK
William & Colleen Reed, Shell Lake, SK
Luella Royal, Portage La Prairie, MB
Dr. Thomas Flanagan, Calgary, AB
Baxter’s Seed Farm, North Battleford, SK



DONAL & GLORIA WOLFF, SHERWOOD PARK, AB

“It’s amazing the work that the CTF does with
limited funding! And good results too! Talk
about dedicated directors and supporters.”

Rob & Lisa Block, Brooks, AB
Scott Fehr, Morden, MB
William & Joan Boesterd, Denbow
Transport Ltd., Chilliwack, BC
Howard & Rosalee Obritsch, Fox Valley, SK
Brenda Stacey, Wilkie, SK
Chris Thom, Cranbrook, BC
Ralph Warner, Kamloops, BC
Pacific Dairy Centre, Chilliwack, BC
Sturgeon Valley Fertilizers Ltd, St. Albert, AB
Kip & Lori Schweb, Coldstream, BC
Linda McDaid, Leoville, SK
Herb Kram, Wawanesa, MB
James Martin, Beaverlodge, AB
Phyllis & Eugene Baun, Parkland Electric,
Shell Lake, SK

Norman R Grant, West Kelowna, BC
Arnold & Sandra Glassford, Prairie
Ag Ventures, Unity, SK
Barry & Joyce Sutherland, Wilkie, SK
Vince Shinebine, Progress Glass Ltd.,
Spruce Grove, AB
Russel & Tish Boyson, Gull Lake, SK
Bill Thomson, Black Diamond, AB
Brent Donis, County of Grande Prairie, AB
Fast Trucking Services Ltd, Carnduff, SK
Emily Loberg, AB
Isidro T. Ang, Calgary, AB
Russell (deceased) & Frances McKague,
Oak River, MB
Weber’s Fabricating Ltd, St. Jacob’s, ON
H.A. Mechanical & Welding Ltd. Abbotsford, BC
Warren Craddock, Chestermere, AB

Clarence & Mary Moan, Russell, MB
Barry & Dawn Mason, Mason
Farms Ltd., Delia, AB
Peter Timmermans, Dorssers Inc.
Blenheim, ON
Glenn & Susan Engelhardt, Duffield, AB
Larry & Betty Stanley, Gainsborough, SK
Floyd & Darlene Steele, Hazlet, SK
Rick & Jean Jones, Middlefork Ranching
Co. Ltd, Consul, SK



Richard & Anne
Watson, Stony
Plain, AB

Murry Carson, Calgary, AB
Joe & Jo-Ann Gans, Fairview, AB
Shaun, Fort Saskatchewan, AB
Robert & Sheila Stevenson, Saskatoon, SK
Rick Longhurst, Regina, SK
Duncan Grierson, Parkdale Builders
Western Ltd., Brandon, MB
Mike & Angie Pomeroy, Maria &
Andy Driedger, Esteem Cleaning
Industries Ltd., Fort St. John, BC
Stanley & Nancy Armstrong, Carman, MB
John & Patricia Newman, Calgary, AB



David & Pauline
Bittman, Spruce
Grove, AB

Erin White, Parkland County, AB



BILL LONGMAN, PITT MEADOWS, BC

“I strongly support all efforts made by the
CTF to the citizens & business in Canada.”

Roy & Kari Milne, Duffield, AB
Ches Hafso, Red Deer, AB
Eddie & Dora, Fairview, AB
Blueline Builders Ltd., Stony Plain, AB
Jack & Sharon Vaandrager, Abbotsford, BC
Elke & Manfred Kanaehl, Stony Plain, AB
Bruce & Shirley Jones, Riceton, SK
Gene Buss, Palliser Grain Farms, Eastend, SK
Myles & Melvina Hegedus, Esterhazy, SK
Murray Pask, Atwater, SK
Del & Margaret Fehr, Innisfail, AB
Sylvia Kuharski, Neepawa, MB
Bob & Roberta May, Senlac, SK
Darryl McLean, MTD Contracting Ltd.,
Sturgeon County, AB
Dwight & Kathy Rasmussen, Griffin, SK
Tom & Carole Baily, MacDonald, MB



Don Sweitzer,
Eston, SK



Lloyd Shanner,
Saskatoon, SK

Gerry & Josie Maire, Islay, AB
Dave Bleeker, 100 Mile House, BC
Gordon Wilson, Western Alignment &
Brake, Rocky Mountain House, AB
Stephen & Bonnie Higgs, Lilac Ridge Farm
Co. Ltd., Abbotsford & Quesnel, BC
Donald & Lynda Arendt, Arendt Land
Holding’s Ltd., Eastend, SK
Gary Culbert, Rossendale, MB
Harold Maguire, Souris, MB
Ken Pelletier, Calgary, AB
Steve Johnson, Calgary, AB
Ken & Pat Farquhar, Birtle, MB
Verne & Marlene Hewlitt, Eston, SK
Wally Tanbrinke, Grace-Mar Farms Ltd,
Chilliwack, BC
Jim & Dana Drangsholt, Lodgepole, AB
G M Desrosiers, Key Maintenance
Technologies, Edmonton, AB
Robert & Debora Skaret, R & D Agriculture
Ltd., Westlock, AB
Barry & Doreen Reid, Tisdale, SK
David & Kandus Rithaler, Grenfell, SK
Gordon Vooyo, Milo, AB

George & Sylvia Baynton, Saskatoon, SK
“The profligate spending of many
irresponsible governments would
have swamped taxpayers but for the
courageous and persistent invention of
the Taxpayers Federation. We owe it a
‘debt’of gratitude!”

Brian Hicke, Melville, SK
“Thank God for CTF!!”

Dana & Marilyn Tumback, Martensville,
SK “Thanks for 30 years of service to the
canadian over-taxpayer.”

Darrel & Peggy Walker, G Double Bar
Farms Ltd., Borden, SK “We appreciate
the work CTF does on our behalf as
taxpayers while we are busy doing what
we do best - producing food!”

James & Lorraine Dibben, Vermilion, AB
“Thanks for all your work to keep the
public informed of the government
inside happenings!!”

Murray Tibbatts, Binscarth, MB
“I am glad to help fight against high
taxes in Canada.”

Harold & Frieda Bratland, Hythe, AB
“Keep up the good work!”

WJF Instrumentation Ltd, Calgary, AB
“Proud to have supported the Canadian
Taxpayers Federation for many years.
We feel it is worthwhile pursuing fair
taxation and restrained spending. Our
children and grandchildren deserve it.”

Bill Book, Spruce Grove, AB
“We support the CTF because of the
great work they do!”

Vernon, Irene & Robert Lindberg Dundurn,
SK “In times when various levels of
government trend toward different
forms of corruption, it is comforting
to know that there is someone like the
Canadian Taxpayers Federation holding
them to task, and bringing it to the
public’s attention, and fighting on our
behalf. Thank you!”

Larry Dennison, Dennison Holdings Inc.
Cobble Hill, BC “I did farm in SK and
I am now retired in BC and I do
appreciate your hard work.”

Mike Burdick, Vancouver, BC
“Congratulations! Thanks for all of your
work on our behalf.”

Merit Transport Ltd, Winnipeg, MB
“CTF may well be the only non-partisan
media outlet left in this country, keep
up the good work.”

Verne Kemble, Indus, AB “I am proud to
have been a member and supporter of
the CTF all these years!”

Norman & Linda Lux, Humboldt, SK
“You people are doing a great job. The
politicians need to be held accountable.”

Doug & Sally Connelly, Lundbreck, AB
“I read your magazine from cover to
cover. Keep up the good work.”


Ryan Batty, Provost Freight Lines Inc,
Provost, AB “Congratulations on your
30 year anniversary!!!”

Garry & Heather Tansem, Edmonton, AB
“Congratulations on your 30th
anniversary. We’ve always appreciated
your tireless efforts in protecting all
taxpayers dollars.”

Marvin & Donna Younger, Coronation, AB
“We enjoy reading The Taxpayer
magazine and get a lot of information out
of it that we had never heard of before.”

Evelyn Shursen, Stettler, AB

"I support the CTF because it presents the facts about the corruption that is rampant in our country. The CTF has personnel and resources and are able to reveal how some governments, businesses and individuals abuse the funds that they have been entrusted with. The CTF does the research and is a well respected voice and authority on how public funds (our tax dollars) are being used. My concern is that some individuals are not held accountable for their actions. I am pleased to see that the CTF is right across Canada. My hope is that the CTF may continue their work and that more results will happen because of their efforts."



MITCH WILE, CALGARY AB

"Congratulations on 30 years; keep up the advocacy on behalf of all Canadian taxpayers."

Arnold & Bea Wichert, Saskatoon, SK

"We are happy to be supporters of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation for many years. CTF have gone to bat for us on many issues especially on government items that make little sense and want to use our taxpayer money to the benefit of themselves or their friends. Thanks to the CTF staff for being a watchdog on our behalf. Your efforts are appreciated."

Robert & Julie Matzner, Leoville, SK

"Support this organization as it's a thorn in the government's side, demands answers to policies that affect the common taxpayer!"

Craig Fawcett, Lethbridge, AB

"We've always appreciated the fine work the Canadian Taxpayers Federation has done fighting on our behalf to highlight fiscal irresponsibility and onerous government regulatory practices. It's been money well spent and we hope you continue for decades to come!"

Cliff & Shirley Breitzkreuz, Stony Plain, AB

"Good luck to another 30 great years."

Reginald & Helen Friesen, Waldheim, SK

"Thank you very much for all your good effort to help preserve our country for what we think it should be."

Sid Veenbaas, Abbotsford, BC

Big O Tires, C/O Meadowridge Tire, Maple Ridge, BC

Dale & Lynn Brady, Carlyle, SK

John Hudohmet, Winnipeg, MB


Jim & Bryce Pallister, Pallister Farms Ltd, Portage La Prairie, MB

Bev Potten, Swan River, MB

Norman George, Carlyle, SK



Barry & Cate Dow, Lanex Holdings Ltd, Lloydminster, AB



Walter & Joyce Campbell, Lloydminster, SK

Kim & Sylvia Barbero, Pincher Creek, AB

Torall Scott, Vanderhoof, BC

Doyle Baily, Oak River, MB

Irongait Ventures Inc., Surrey, BC

Robert Boychoff, Brechin, ON

James R & Jan E Wood, Pense, SK

Arnie Strong, Kamloops, BC

Neil Mehrer, Churchbridge, SK

D. Buye, Fox Valley, SK

Eldon Samis, Sturgeon County, AB

Pleasant Valley Cabinets, Swan River, MB

Lorne & Kari Gehlert, Riverside Farms Inc., Spruce Grove, AB

Shirley Kapeller, Arborfield, SK

Kors Lieverse, Lieverse Contracting Ltd., Beaverlodge, AB

Blair Sharpe, Saskatoon, SK

Ed & Marilyn Struys, Agassiz, BC

Bernard & Carole Helfter, Holland, MB

Ken & Nancy Plews, Carnduff, SK

Blair Palm, Trowel Trades Accessories, Surrey, BC

Vernon Iverson, Meota, SK

Abe Konrad, Blackwood Building Centre Ltd. Abbotsford, BC



Richard & Brenda Lee Lueke, Regina, SK

John & Dorothy Robertson, Belmont Farms Ltd, Lloydminster, AB

Andrew Schutte, Abbotsford, BC

Englot Acres Ltd., Glenavon, SK

Gail Milton, Eston, SK

Bernard Petracek, Langenburg, SK

Ilebeling & Renske Kaastra, Rosssburn, MB

John & Dorothy Rossiter, Westeros, AB

Edward & Lois Cadrin, Meota, SK

Garry Wight, Dodsland, SK

Kenneth Schultz, Melville, SK

Duncan & Louise Campbell, Elrose, SK

Walter McTavish, Miami, MB

Jim Currie & Kay Montgomery, Mervin, SK

Rick & Betty Anne Eisler, Wawota, SK

Jim & Betty Van Dongen, Abbotsford, BC

Robert & Ronda Stamm, Glenavon, SK

Brian Payne, Edmonton, AB

Joe & Minnie Scherloski, Gerald, SK

Dwayne & Anita Wolfe, Edam, SK

Lyle & Irma Keyes, Carrot Creek, AB

Henrietta Parenteau, Prairie View Farm, Biggar, SK

William Nychka, Grande Prairie, AB

Greg & Gladys Nisbet, Wiseton, SK

Marjorie & Stan Acton, Lemberg, SK

Andy Low, John W. Low Agencies Inc., Ponoka, AB

Lorne & Willena, Melville, SK


Niels Bongaard, Canwood, SK

Raymond & Donna Wyatt, Canwood, SK

Dean Demers, Debden, SK

Terrance & Gail Stepp, Torquay, SK

Enoch Aarrestad, Debden, SK



Pak Wong, Provost, AB

Ritchie Construction Ltd, Big River, SK

A. Len Bellingham, Calgary, AB


Jim & Cathy Macey, Rosetown, SK

Jeff Siegel, Stony Plain, AB

Robert Cooper, Prince George, BC

Robert & Sharon Ballantyne, Livelong, SK

Tom Doll, Edmonton, AB



JUDY STEFAN, WESTLOCK, AB

"I have learned a lot by reading The Taxpayer magazine and emails as well."

Harry & Patricia Winterhalder, Enderby, BC

Alex & Tina Hattum, A & T Tire, Moosomin, SK

John & Gale Beckman, Stoughton, SK

Drew Schofield, M & Z Industrial Supply Ltd., Edmonton, AB

Barrie & Helen Hole, Boissevain, MB

John Joa, St. Walburg, SK

Margaret E. Kemp, North Battleford, SK

Glenn & Joyce Laycock, Saltcoats, SK

Don & Donna Philp, Souris, MB

Paul King, Enderby, BC

Arnold Neufeldt, Waldheim, SK

Ross Morrison Electrical, Burnaby, BC

Milton & Colette Melnychuk, Foam Lake, SK

Erwin Stenzel, Manitou Beach, SK

Ron & Daniel Boychuk, Calgary, AB

Lorne Kemp, Calgary, AB

Trevor Brown, Calgary, AB

Larry Lee, Calgary, AB

Jonathan Dicey, Calgary, AB

Al King, Calgary, AB

Westlock Veterinary Center, Westlock, AB



Mel & Rita Kause, Mewassin Machinery & Auto Repairs, Duffield, AB

Doug Nelson, Edmonton, AB

Brian & Carol Ann Weber, Vawn, SK

Roger & Jean Deshoux, Pickardville, AB

Tom & Irene McMillan, McMillan Farms Inc. Pickardville, AB

Steve & Mary Kawulich, Westlock, AB

Max / Dale Kinsella, Westlock, AB


Richard Woods, Oyen, AB

Leonard Johnson, Providence Farms Ltd, Assiniboia, SK

John & Anna Enns, Chase, BC

Alert Agri Distributors Inc., West St. Paul, MB

John & Ivy Hogg, Kerrobert, SK



BRIAN & CARMELE SCHNEIDER, RIMBEY, SK

"The CTF is a true blue group of people that understand the importance of living within our means and make great efforts to publicize government waste."

Murray & Elaine Sankey, Little Gem Ranches Ltd, Veteran, AB

Gareth & Marwayne Thomas, Wainwright, AB

K&B Hill, Wetaskiwin County, AB

Johnny Janke, Wetaskiwin County, AB

Arnold & Faye Lien, Green Acres, Irma, AB

Edwin & Mary Carson, Wainwright, AB

Tod Hohl, Hi-Kalibre Equipment Ltd. Edmonton, AB


Fred McDiarmid, McDiarmid Holdings Ltd, Veteran, AB

Larry & Ruth Evans, Laru Farms Ltd, Altario, AB

Dennis & Debbie Bergman, Langenburg, SK



Edwin & Adele Ulmer, Stony Plain, AB



Grant & Bonnie-Lynn Holtby, Marshall, SK

Marvin Eddy, Weyburn, SK

Lorne A. Samson, Calgary, AB

Tim Donnelly, Edmonton, AB

Gordon & Beth Carson, Amisk, AB

Neil Blue, Vermilion, AB

Gloria Osioy, Grenfell, SK

Barb Mehling, Yorkton Sewing Centre, Yorkton, SK

Chuck Gust, Mid-Island Engine & Machine Ltd, Duncan, BC

R.K. Hamilton, Edmonton, AB

James Lester, Shaunavon, SK

Donald & Carole James, Salt Spring Island, BC

Ray & Linda Lane, L & R Cattle Company Ltd, Claresholm, AB

Jean & Richard Messer, Taber, AB

Marlin & Mary Bayes, Abbotsford, BC

"The Canadian Taxpayers Federation has always been there to advocate for small businesses like ours. Definitely a worthwhile organization to support."

Jim D Taylor, Melfort, SK

"I appreciate very much what the Canadian Taxpayers Federation has done over the years for my farm, business and family! Keep up the great work!"

Al & Anne Burtney, Cudworth, SK

"Keeping people accountable."

Tjapko & Marylou Detmers, Granum, AB

"For evil to triumph...it is only necessary for good to do nothing."

Greg Perdue, Buffalo Air Express, Edmonton, AB

"Congratulations on 30 years. Keep up the good work!"

L & L Oilfield Construction, Lloydminster, SK

"Proud to support the Canadian Taxpayers Federation in there fight to keep our government accountable."

Bryan & Bev Adam, Rolling Acres Farms, Stony Plain, AB

"The CTF has been an effective voice for us and has taken on and won some big issues. Thank you."

Allen Hewko, Neilburg, SK

"Thanks for the great work, it is more relevant now than ever."

David Williams, Carpet One Floor & Home, Yorkton/Melville, SK

"I have been a supporter of the CTF for decades but it is a reciprocal agreement. Government spending and mismanagement will always be a concern and the CTF is there to hold them accountable. They keep me informed, express my views and fight the fight to support us, the taxpayer."

Everett & Jessie Paynter, Calgary, AB

"We have supported the CTF from its inception in the late 80's."



JERRY & SHARON SCHOCK, BURSTALL, SK
“Congratulations on your anniversary for the good work being done.”

Leo & Marie Schwebuis, Landis, SK
Panter Agencies Ltd. Big River, SK
Terry Walker, Elphinstone, MB
Bill Dekort, Calgary, AB
Helen McNorchuk, Parkland County, AB
Joan Braaten, Abbey, SK
Michael Isman, Royal City Jewellers & Loans Ltd, New Westminster, BC



PAUL KLAASSEN, LLOYDMINSTER, SK
“CTF has taking my voice and magnified it to a much larger voice heard locally and nationally.”

Glenn Bauer, Edmonton, AB
“I am proud to be a long time supporter of an organization that strives to keep our government accountable.”

Mark & Edna Mackenzie, Lethbridge, AB
“The Canadian Taxpayer Federation is important to all Canadians as it keeps an eye on our over zealous politicians - their love of giving themselves increases to salary and pensions and forgetting to watch their spending of our hard earned salaries and pensions. They love to spend time at the trough and not enough time working to better the plight of the average Canadian.”

Greg & Diane Dika, Rycroft, AB
“Thank you for being on the front line, for the Canadian taxpayers.”

Larry Samcoe, Medicine Hat, AB
“Three decades for the CTF is a phenomenal accomplishment. Its work today for the taxpayers is as important as it was thirty years ago.”

Oasis Insurance / Prestige Ventures, North Battleford, SK
“Continue your work towards reducing government waste of precious tax dollars.”

Gary & Lorraine Wright, Vermilon, AB
“Like the work you do.”

Dave Piper, Midale, SK
“Keep up the good work gang-our country will never see the day when the Canadian Taxpayers Federation is no longer needed.”

Maurice & Linda, Weyburn, SK
“We think you try to keep the government accountable, but it needs a lot of work.”

Roger & Darlene Vowk, Drayton Valley, SK
“Keep up the good work.”



LAWRENCE LARSON, SASKATOON, SK
“Keep up the good work that has been done for years!”

Robert Geddes, Ensign Drilling Inc, Calgary, AB
Fred Risling, Unity, SK
Chris & Sharon Rottier, Praise Farms Ltd, Westlock, AB
Dennis Sittler, Landis, SK
John Holzapfel, Edmonton, AB



Louis W MacEachern, Calgary, AB



Doug Cross, Westlock, AB

Garry Hoffman, Killaly, SK
Darrel & Dolores Baber, Melville, SK
Richard Horrell, North Battleford, SK
Richard & Val Seatter, Dapp, AB
Keith & Joy Alridge, Kelfield, SK
Dawn Owens & Jeff Murphy, Kitson’s Service Station, Portage La Prairie, MB
Brad Derksen, Prairie Insurance Brokers, Altona, MB
Ray Friesen, Morden Agencies Inc., Morden, MB
Ken Newton, Newton Family Farms Ltd., Swift Current, SK
Kelly & Janice Ashworth, Oungre, SK
Rendal Giesbrecht, Altona Memorials Co. Ltd., Altona, MB
Perry & Jytte Olechowski, Medicine Hat, AB

Ronald & Jean Andeson, Swift Current, SK
Jens Bundgaard, Canwood, SK
Harvey & Agnes Klatt, Warburg, AB
Erik & Cheryl Jacobsen, Warburg, AB
Dave Cameron, Roworth & Cameron Ranch, Czar, AB
Peter Bobryk, Czar, AB
Dale Kopchia, Kopchia Farms, Tawatinaw, AB
Gordon & Bev Hansen, Tawatinaw, AB
Arthur & Phyllis Lange, Rochester, AB
Raymond & Sharon White, Morden, MB
Brian & Fay Crammond, Neepawa, MB
Harry Moroz, Rocket Sales & Rental Co. Ltd, Estevan, SK
George Sexty, Westlock, AB
Ross & Kathy Martin, Stettler, AB
Debbie & Glen Tremmel, Kennedy Oilfield Serv. Ltd, Stettler, AB
Michael & Audrey Thomas, Barrhead, AB
C. Allan & Lois Hyndman, Cardale, MB
Barry & Lorna Kusler, Walsh, AB



Anthony & Claire Stitsen, Busby, AB

Chattar Ahuja, ABCO Custom Manufacturing Inc., Waterloo, ON
Darcy & Kathy Miller, Chinook, AB
Russ & Bev Papegnies, Carberry, MB
Aldean Penner, Barrhead, AB
Trans Western Electric Ltd, Langley, BC

B & A Petroleum Ltd., Swift Current, SK
Johnston Farms Ltd, Aldergrove, BC



Anthony & Claire Stitsen, Busby, AB



Rod & Marcia Simons, Tangleflags Farms, Lloydminster, SK

Siegfried & Betty Bansch, Lazy S.B. Simmentals, Goodsoil, SK
Donald Olson, Ohaton, AB
Brian Parkinson, Brian Parkinson Insurance Agencies, Langley, BC
Deborah Hydamacka, Meath Park, SK
Morley Hepfner, Okotoks, AB
Karen V. Radke, Westlock, AB
Leonard & Louella Park, Debden, SK



Trent Muller, Muller Realty Inc. Westlock, AB

Jeff & Gina Plomp, Warburg, AB
Hermary Opto Electronics Ltd, Coquitlam, BC
Kravetz & Co. Notaries Public, Langley, BC
Don & Janet Osborne, Birnie, MB
Bob Mitchell, Carman, MB
Jake & Maria Martens, Morden, MB
Darrin & Christina Bulas, Plumas, MB
Zane & Marjorie Parsons, Sedgewick, AB
Don & Dianne Gray, Gray Grain Co. Ltd, Aylsham, SK
Dennis & Bev (deceased) Hluchaniuk, Codette, SK
Terry & Sandee Youzwa, Nipwain, SK
Allene Yasinski, Nipwain, SK
Shirley & Al Verstraeten, Nipawin, SK
Jim & Heather Mutchler, Ohaton, AB
Barry & Noreen Schnuth, Cabri, SK
Ian & Connie Rushmer, Rush Acres Ltd, Codette, SK
Neil & Dawn McCallum, Stettler, AB
Larry Austin, Birtle, MB

Randy & Celeste Bell, Portreeve, SK
Ken & Doreen Keel, Maple Ridge, BC
Gerald & Marlene Britton, Ken Rae Farms Ltd, Aylsham, SK
Neil & Wilma Wheeler, Aylsham, SK
Bev & Lorna Clark, Ferry Apiaries Ltd, Wawanesa, MB
Don Lato, Spruce Home, SK
Ricky & Connie Ricard, Baldur, MB
Roy, Rose, Mark & Clint Anderson, Anderson Sand & Gravel, Gladstone, MB
Dennis Paterson, Neepawa, MB
Roy & Vera Larison, Clyde, AB
Ted & Audrey Petracek, Esterhazy, SK
Dale & Beth Neal, Prince Albert, SK
Strathmore Value Drug Mart, Strathmore, AB
Erwin & Mary-Jo Hoelscher, Rockyford, AB
Calvin & Joan Ferrier, Hayter, AB
Garry & Diana Clarke, Meadow Stock Farm Ltd., Spy Hill, SK
Dick & Emily Klein Geltink, Klein Valley Farms, Langley, BC
Robert Scheck, Bodo, AB
Rodney Larson, Larson’s Hardware Ltd., Provost, AB
Harvey Taylor, Wainwright Farms Ltd., Wainwright, AB
Chester & Donna Ford, Irma, AB
Allan Murray Farms Ltd., Hayter, AB
Alan & Deanna Fraser, Barrons, AB



Yves & Nancy Garex, Nipwain, SK



Brian & Joann Dosch, Humboldt, SK

Dale Schmale, Melfort, SK
Bruce & Joan Eldie, Piapot, SK
Edward & Rosalie Beamish, Hamiota, MB
John Harges, Paradise Hill, SK
Folkgraphis Frames Ltd., Edmonton, AB
Pro Plus Automotive Inc. Saskatoon, SK
Kurt & Judy Feigel Jr., Edmonton, AB

Joe Hyde, Maple Ridge BC
“Please keep up the good work, we need it now more than ever before.”

Don & Sheila Bell, Coulter, MB
“Have been proud to support the Federation for 28 years - and counting.”

Guy & Cathy Oswell, Lloydminster, SK
“We are fortunate to have the best field rep calling on us each year.”

Harry’s Tire Sales (1984) Ltd, Claresholm, AB
“A voice for the business people of Canada. Keep up the good fight! We’ll be there for you!!!”

Wayne and Debbie Stein, Shy’s Forest Products Ltd, Vancouver, BC
“We are happy to be included with congratulations on the 30th anniversary of The Taxpayer magazine.”

Casey Langbroek FCPA FCGA, Chilliwack, BC
“Keep up the good work; Have learned a great deal over the years from the great work done and the research that leads to holding folks accountable.”

Marshall Copithorne, Calgary, AB
“We stand on guard for Alberta and Canada.”

Patrick Radford, Olds, AB
“Been a loyal member from day one.”

Murray & Bev Peel, Miniota, MB
“Good luck on your 30 anniversary.”

Bob Evans, Edmonton, AB
“Continue to keep governments accountable to the people who pay taxes and give them their jobs.”

Blain Fowler, Camrose, AB
“I haven’t the time or inclination to study all the government rules, regulations and legislation. Thankful to have the folks at the Canadian Taxpayers Federation look out for my best interests, keep me informed and intercede on my behalf when necessary!”

Q&A

WITH KEN AZZOPARDI



Ken Azzopardi addressing the audience at the CTF's 10th anniversary dinner in Regina in 2000.

SH: You didn't last that long as COO. What happened there?

KA: Shortly after, like within a month or so of starting, Jason announced that he was seeking the nomination for an MP position in Calgary and left the organization, so the board saw fit to just make me CEO, and did so. I completely reorganized so that we didn't really need a COO anyway. I did the administrative functions and left the communications functions to our communicators.

SH: That's actually what makes CTF kind of unique – and that stemmed from your reorganization – is that for most organizations their president or CEO is also their chief spokesperson. And that was completely different after you stepped into the role following Jason. Is it that you didn't want to be on TV? What was your reasoning?

KA: When I came there were a lot of organizational problems with the CTF. And I think part of the problem was that Jason just was so busy being chief spokesperson, that he didn't have time to really concentrate on administration and growth issues. So, I saw fit to focus on the administration and give our communications staff the capacity to operate full bore and expand the organization.

SH: Before you got into politics, you were in the RCMP. That's quite a change. What skills do you think you picked up in the RCMP that translated over to the world of politics?

KA: The obvious one is people skills – being able to understand and read people – and crisis management. Of course, every day, you're engaged in crisis management when you're a police officer. And even the more minor things like running an office. You've got all the issues related to running an office, from filing to budgets. You bring a lot of skills, but mainly the people skills: being able to read, understand, listen, and appreciate where people are coming from.

SH: Were you ever tempted to run for office?

KA: Oh yeah. Tempted and asked. Asked both provincially and municipally, but I just wasn't interested. I like the backroom stuff better.

SH: Coming back to when you started at the CTF ... you mentioned it was quite a mess when you stepped in. What would you say was your biggest challenge as a new CEO of the CTF?

KA: Well, the biggest challenge was making everything simpatico. Everybody was fighting each other. It was just a bit of a mess. It was like walking into a family dispute when I was in the RCMP. The first thing you do when you go into a family dispute

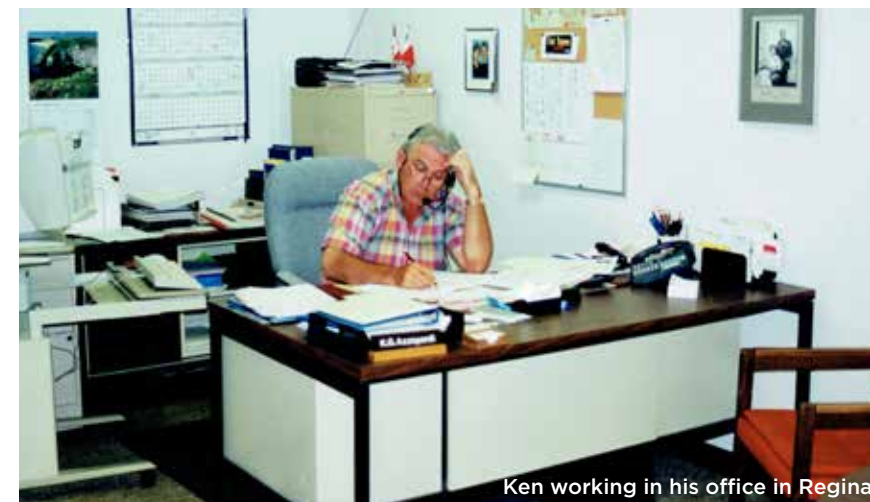
is separate the people doing the fighting, get them away from each other and then figure out what the real problem is. So that's what I did.

I took the three main groups in the organization – administration, communications and fundraising – and I gave them their own management, freedom and responsibilities, and even things like job descriptions. Each role is very important, and they have to work together. That was tough. It took me a couple of years to do that, but then things started to improve.

SH: A lot of the structure you put in place is still in place today because it made sense and it works. Thank you for that. Jumping to the policy side of the organization, what would you say was the biggest victory during your 13 years?

KA: We were successful on several campaigns, but what I think was the best thing is that we managed to convince the Chrétien government and all of the Western provincial governments to balance their budgets, and slow spending.

But what I'm also proud of, is that we became the go-to people for a number of policy issues: corporate welfare, wasteful spending, and the First Nations accountability file. And part of that was because we opened up an office in Ottawa.



Ken working in his office in Regina.

"I'm a manager that likes to allow people freedom and capacity to do their thing. Give people room, trust that they can do the job and just let them go do it. Make sure that they meet their goals and that they have all the tools they need to get the job done and not micromanage them."

SH: That may have been the biggest impact, but did you have a favourite campaign that the CTF ran?

KA: I think the whole First Nations accountability issue. And, it's not the accountability of just First Nations and their leadership. It's accountability of governments relative to the First Nations policy. At first, they were calling us a bunch of racists. How dare we question First Nations accountability and the Indian Act, which is the most systematically racist act in the country?

And we were saying, there are third world nations within our country, and they're getting tons



of money. Where the hell is that money going? And why are they in the conditions they are? And again, we became very credible critics of that system. I mean, it's ridiculous that First Nations people don't have private property rights on their own reserves. It's like a Soviet system within this country. So we took it on, and we got fired at a whole bunch of times, but we became very credible. And we got First Nations' allies. The situation demonstrates how successful that was with the Charmaine Stick legal fight right now. So that was my favorite.

SH: I think it's really interesting that the whole campaign started back with former Saskatchewan CTF director, Richard Truscott. I was just looking at some old photos of Richard being interviewed by 60 Minutes on First Nations issues. Were you there that day, when he was interviewed?

KA: I watched that, and they went after him. They tried to make us look like a bunch of racist bozos. And he just hung in there and he was so good that they didn't even air the thing because, they came in with an agenda and didn't accomplish it.

SH: That's got to be almost surreal. You're sitting in your Regina office and you've got a guy from the biggest news

show in the world filming in your offices. When 60 Minutes came in, what was the day like?

KA: They came in and took over our boardroom. It was a big production – huge production. I forget how long he questioned Richard. It went on for like two, three hours and it was quite amazing to watch. And then we established a full-time director and proposed various policy changes. We were proposing a lot of substantial changes to the way First Nations people are treated by the government and the way they're treated by their own chiefs. The First Nations Financial Transparency Act came out of that. All kinds of good stuff.

SH: What issue would you say was your white whale that got away?

KA: I think my biggest disappointment was the McGuinty and Wynne governments, and how irresponsible they were. Completely irresponsible. They were not interested in fiscal accountability; they were not interested in of balancing books. They were completely irresponsible, and Ontario is suffering for it now.

SH: Fast forward to today, if you were made prime minister, or if you could wave a magic wand and change one policy, what would it be?

KA: Fair, flat and simple tax systems and less government in our face.

SH: That's a good answer. During your time as CEO you hired a lot of people, and I won't ask you who your favorite was. But are there any memorable job interviews that that resulted in someone unexpected getting hired?

KA: I'm pretty good at that process. I read people pretty good and I was pretty confident everybody we hired would do well. But I think the one that surprised me the most was how quickly we became known in Ottawa when we hired Walter Robinson. He was talented. We already knew that, but we became well known in Ottawa. He made us rather famous in Ottawa very quickly. And that surprised me.

SH: Walter took on issues like corporate welfare and pushed back on companies like Bombardier, right?

KA: We had the entire upper management of Bombardier come and visit us, and they told us they were surprised how small we were. The CEO told me in the car on the way back to the hotel, he said, "you guys are really punching above your weight." And we were, we really were.

SH: They came all the way from Montréal to Regina?

KA: Yes, at the annual planning meeting in Regina they came to say, "quit picking on us."

SH: Well, it didn't work. We're still going after them and none harder than Renaud Brossard, our Québec director. During your time as CEO, what would you say was the hardest decision you ever had to make?

KA: I've thought about this a few times over the years, and I think it's like buying a boat. You hear people say the happiest day of your life is when you buy the boat. And then the second happiest day of your life is when you sell the boat. I think the hardest part of being CEO is your first several months, when you're trying to get grounded and figure out what

the problems are. And then the second hardest is knowing when to leave and deciding my time's up – somebody else needs to do this. I think those are the hardest parts of the job.

SH: What would you say is the secret of your success?

KA: I'm a manager that likes to allow people freedom and capacity to do their thing. Give people room, trust that they can do the job and just let them go do it. Make sure that they meet their goals and that they have all the tools they need to get the job done and not micromanage them.

SH: If you could go back and do those 13 years over, what would you do differently?

KA: Probably not a lot. We really struggled with technology during those 13 years, because technology was changing so rapidly and maybe we could have changed a little faster. But it was expensive. A fax machine was a ridiculous amount of money back in those days. But I'm pretty happy with the way things went.

SH: So now you're on our board. What's been more fun: being the CEO or being on the board?

KA: I liked being CEO. But by being on the board I feel that I'm able to provide a historical perspective for other board members. Also, it's much easier for me to look at the CTF budget and understand it, and same with the goals and tactics that we have each year. I mean, I was involved in designing that whole thing. I think I bring a knowledgeable perspective to the board. And I think the board should always have a former CEO on there to provide that perspective.

SH: Now that you're retired, what have you been doing? What keeps you busy day to day in retirement?

KA: Lots of golf. I instruct Tai Chi as well. I'm on a couple of boards. I'm on the CTF board. I'm also on the SecondStreet.org board and I'm on the RCMP Veterans Association board here.

SH: Would a 40-year old Ken Azzopardi believe that a 70-year old Ken Azzopardi is a Tai Chi instructor?

KA: No (laughter). I love it. It's a relaxing way to exercise and a stress-less exercise.

SH: That's awesome. I know you love reading. What's your all-time favorite book?

KA: For fiction, it's probably The Old Man and the Sea. It's probably the only book I've read more than twice. And Colleen McCullough's Roman series. There are seven books in that series, and it's set in the time of Caesar. I couldn't put those down – all seven books. In terms of non-fiction it's hard to pick a book. I like history, biographies, the Elizabethan era, founding fathers of both our country and the U.S. It's hard to pick one.



Ken, former CEO Troy Lanigan and former Board Chair Michael Binnion presenting Scott with his 10th anniversary plaque in 2015.

SH: I knew that would be the toughest question for you. Let's try movies. What's your all-time favorite movie?

KA: Doctor Zhivago.


SH: If you've got a long drive in the car, what's playing on the radio?

KA: Symphony Hall on SiriusXM.

SH: I probably could have guessed that one. Ken, thanks

"I was involved in designing that whole thing. I think I bring a knowledgeable perspective to the board. And I think the board should always have a former CEO on there to provide that perspective."

for taking the time today. I've learned a few things that I didn't know about you.

KA: Well, good. And congratulations to the CTF on 30 years, who would have thought? I remember going to the 50th anniversary of the German Taxpayer's Association, wondering if that day will ever come for us. I can see that day coming now after 30 years. It's really wonderful. 



STANDING UP FOR FIRST NATIONS



Then-Saskatchewan director Richard Truscott being interviewed by Bob Simon of 60 Minutes about First Nations issues.



by Todd MacKay
Prairie Director

Charmaine Stick spent a Friday afternoon this past June staring at her phone. She wasn't watching cat videos or checking the weather. It was a live feed of three Saskatchewan Court of Appeal judges grilling lawyers. The central question was simple: does she have

the right to see her community's basic financial documents made public?

Accountability is central to the Canadian Taxpayers Federation's mission. It means filing hundreds of access to information requests to governments. It also means working with Indigenous activists to make sure they have the same right to transparency that other Canadians take for granted.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation's work with Indigenous activists started with anonymous whistleblowers.

"We used to get these brown envelopes on the doorstep," remembers Richard Truscott, the CTF's former Saskatchewan director. "The more we spoke about it in the media, the more brown envelopes we got."

Those envelopes were stuffed full of documents showing some First Nations leaders were wasting money that belonged to band members. Truscott did what he always did when he found evidence of wasteful spending: he made it public. Whistleblowers kept providing more evidence of the need for

greater accountability and transparency.

But not everyone was supportive. Some media commentators accused the organization of being racist for criticizing Indigenous leaders. There were even death threats.

But they couldn't overshadow the facts. In 1999, the Saulteaux First Nation spent \$600,000 on travel for band leaders. That's more than the entire travel bill for the Saskatchewan cabinet that year. Band members spoke out against their leaders.

The CTF continued to challenge the status quo. In March 2002, the CTF launched the Centre for Aboriginal Policy Change with director Tanis Fiss, producing research papers laying bare the obvious fact that more money from Ottawa was not the solution to the problems facing Indigenous people, who continued to endure health and education outcomes lagging behind other Canadians. Fiss made concrete recommendations including stronger accountability protections and property rights.

In 2002, Canada's Federal Court ruled that Treaty 8 made Indigenous people exempt from all taxes. Until then, income earned within a First Nation was tax exempt, but Indigenous people who worked off-reserve paid tax. It was a far-reaching decision that would have established a precedent extending far beyond Treaty 8.

The CTF intervened in the case and

argued that Treaty 8 didn't say anything about a blanket tax exemption.

The CTF won that case at the Federal Court of Appeal. The higher court overturned the decision. Even more importantly, the Supreme Court declined to re-examine decision, so the appeal ruling remains in force. As a result, Indigenous people who work off-reserve continue to pay taxes just like every other Canadian.

Meanwhile, the brown envelopes kept coming. Phyllis Sutherland, a courageous activist from the Peguis First Nation in Manitoba, sent some in 2009. Three of them went to political parties, but they didn't reply. One of them went to the CTF and planted the seed for an important new law.

The documents showed that leaders at the Peguis First Nation were paying themselves \$170,000 to \$250,000 per year while many band members struggled in poverty.

"We did tons of media," remembers Colin Craig, the CTF's former Prairie director. "The media started asking how we would change things, so we called for all of this information to be put on the Internet."

Publicly posting basic financial information online is standard procedure for the federal, provincial and municipal governments, but Ottawa claimed they couldn't disclose financial documents from First Nations.

One of the CTF's most important victories came in 2013: the passage of the First Nations Financial Transparency Act. The law is simple: First Nations are required to publish their annual financial statements as well as the salaries and expenses for chief and council. Prime Minister Stephen Harper invited Sutherland and Craig to Parliament to personally thank them for their work in developing the legislation.

The impact of the First Nations Financial Transparency Act was immediate.

It disclosed the fact that Kwikwetlem First Nation Chief Ron Giesbrecht was paid \$914,219 for managing the 85-member band in 2013-14.

"I want the public to know that the membership knew nothing about this," Marvin Joe, Kwikwetlem band councillor, told the *National Post*. "And if it wasn't for this new transparency act, I don't think we ever would have known."

The new law unearthed another important fact: the majority of Indigenous

leaders were paid much more reasonably. In fact, some took little or no pay.

As with most struggles, the huge step forward was followed by a backward stumble.

"Today, I directed my Department to cease all discretionary compliance measures related to the First Nations Financial Transparency Act," stated Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett on Dec. 18, 2015, after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government took power. In other words, Ottawa would no longer enforce the First Nations Financial Transparency Act.

One of the CTF's most important victories came in 2013: the passage of the **First Nations Financial Transparency Act**.

But that step backward sprouted the partnership between Charmaine Stick and the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

Stick went on a 13-day hunger strike in 2014 to protest the lack of accountability and transparency in her community, Onion Lake Cree Nation. The band consistently refused to open its books and challenged the First Nations Financial Transparency Act. In 2016, Stick

partnered with the CTF to take her band leaders to court to enforce the legislation.

"We haven't really been getting any answers," Stick told the CBC when she launched the court fight. "The fact that there is no accountability or transparency within our communities is a form of oppression for our people."

Stick won at the Court of Queen's Bench and the judge ordered the disclosure of the documents. The band appealed, but Stick won again. Finally, the band released two years worth of disclosures in 2018.

"I was so excited to read the financial statements, but then I'd get so mad I'd have to take a break and cool off," said Stick.

The documents showed former Onion Lake Cree Nation Chief Wallace Fox's salary went up from \$123,000 in 2015 to \$150,000 in 2016, while the average salary for a chief in Canada was \$59,000. The average income in the Onion Lake Cree Nation was \$17,500.

The struggle for accountability and transparency ebbs and flows. After disclosing two years worth of documents, Onion Lake Cree Nation leaders again refused to disclose their finances. Again, Stick and the CTF went back to court to force the band to follow the law. That's why Stick spent that warm June day watching lawyers argue on her phone.

There's reason for hope in First Nations communities. The overwhelming majority of bands continue to provide disclosures under the First Nations Financial Transparency Act, even though Trudeau won't enforce it. Courageous Indigenous activists such as Phyllis Sutherland, Charmaine Stick and many others are taking a stand for change. And hundreds of thousands of Canadian Taxpayers Federation supporters are standing with them. **T**



Then-Prairie director Colin Craig (centre) and many First Nations grassroots activists meeting with then-Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Minister John Duncan in 2012.

THE TEDDY AWARDS

CELEBRATING THE BEST OF THE WORST OF GOVERNMENT WASTE



by James Wood
Investigative Journalist

When you sort through as much government waste and questionable spending as we do at the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, you might as well have a sense of humour about it.

The “Teddy Awards” were created (and first handed out) in 1999; the brainchild of our then-Alberta director, Mark Milke. He had wanted to draw attention to a familiar story – governments wasting tax dollars – but without hammering the public and media over the head with it.

Milke had been reading through a report from the federal auditor general (a common thing for CTF directors to do), when he noticed that a former senior civil servant named Ted Weatherill had been let go from his position of chairman of the Canada Relations Board. The dismissal was due to “expenses

incurred” that were “incompatible with his position,” according to the language in the AG’s report.

Those expenses included \$150,000 in meals over eight years – significantly more than department guidelines. Weatherill’s most famous expenses billed to taxpayers included:

- A \$733.43 lunch for two at the Officiel de l’Arpege in Paris;
- A \$531.50 dinner at the Royal Windsor Hotel in Brussels;
- \$70,700 for taxpayer-reimbursed meals in North America between 1989 and 1997, as opposed to the estimated \$19,400 that would have been spent had Weatherill followed Treasury Board guidelines.

Given the exceptional rarity of firing a civil servant, the fact that Weatherill was let go showed that his expenses

were so outrageous, they made a worthy namesake of our most prestigiously porky award.

Thus, mimicking all the glitz of the Grammys and the Oscars, the Teddy Awards were born.

It was proposed that the CTF riff off the well-known awards by first nominating “worthy” recipients and holding a media conference in Ottawa to announce the winners. The federal director, donning a tux, would imitate the glamour by announcing who among the nominees won each award and presenting a golden pig to the deserving winners in absentia.

The CTF originally came up with three categories: Federal, Provincial and the Lifetime Achievement Award. The original three categories have since expanded to four, given the many examples of municipal waste that simply begged for recognition.

— with files from Mark Milke.

Past Teddy Awards by category:

FEDERAL WINNERS

2020: **Global Affairs Canada** went millions overbudget in the “Mission Cultural Fund” to fly chefs around the world, first-class. Since the program was created in 2016, the government has spent \$11.2 million. With a budget of \$4.6 million, the program cost is a whopping 144% over budget.

2019: **Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s** (at least) \$1.6 million worth of costume changes on his India trip. For the eight-day trip, the prime minister only scheduled half a day of official government business, but did manage to find fancy, traditional Indian outfits to wear every day of his visit.

2018: **The Department of Canadian Heritage** spent \$8.2 million on a temporary ice rink on Parliament Hill for Canada’s 150th birthday. This was despite the fact that Canada’s most famous outdoor skating surface, the Rideau Canal, was right next door.

2017: **The Canada Revenue Agency** paid \$538,549 for one of its staff to move 192 kilometres from Richmond Hill to Belleville – one Ontario city to another.

2016: **The Canadian delegation to the Paris Conference** cost taxpayers at least \$1 million and for a hefty total of 283 participants.

2015: **Former MP and mayor of London Joe Fontana** was criminally convicted for defrauding taxpayers – while still collecting his \$122,000 annual MP pension.

2014: **Employment and Social Development Canada** wasted \$2.5 million on advertising during the 2013 Stanley Cup playoffs, for the non-existent Canada Jobs Grant.

2013: **Standing Buffalo First Nation Chief Roger Redman** pulled in a \$194,737 tax-free salary (equivalent to \$317,583 for those who pay provincial and federal income tax), on a reserve with 443 people.

2012: **Agriculture Canada’s Tobacco Transition Program** cost \$284 million and doubled the number of tobacco farmers in Canada.

2011: **The G20 Summit in Toronto** cost \$1.24 billion. It was ironically organized to discuss how to trim government over-spending.

2010: **The cost of MP mailers to voters** increased by \$4.1 million over three years.

2009: **The Canada Council for the Arts** spent \$15,000 to help bring a Belgian art exhibit, which produced a poop-like substance when fed with food, to Québec. It also spent \$40,000 on a project that sought to fly a giant inflatable banana over the state of Texas.

2008: **Senator Raymond Lavigne** was ordered to repay \$23,500 for travel expenses.

2007: **Senator Colin Kenny** chaired a Senate committee that stayed in a luxurious hotel in Dubai for seven days, even though only one three-hour meeting was scheduled. The hotel bill was \$30,000.

2006: **Joe Volpe, MP for Eglinton Lawrence**, charged taxpayers \$60,000 for travel and hospitality.

2005: **Correctional Canada Commissioner Lucie McClung** spent \$142,000 travelling to Hong Kong, Brazil, Barbados, New Zealand and Europe.

2004: **Public Works Canada** received the award for the Sponsorship Scandal, in which the auditor general revealed \$100 million was paid to firms for little or no work, including \$1.5 million to GroupAction for three identical reports.

2003: **The Canadian Firearms Centre** cost at least \$1 billion – 430 times the original estimate.

2002: **Farm Credit Canada** charged taxpayers \$433,000 to change the group’s name from Farm Credit Corporation, including \$140,000 to “research” a single word adjustment.

2001: **Canadian Alliance MPs** elected in 1993 opted backed into the MP pension plan.

2000: **The Human Resources and Development Canada** grant jobs scandal produced 19 police investigations – and no new jobs!

1999: **Public Works and Government Services Canada** rang up \$1.4 billion in untendered contracts in 1995 and allowed the Parliament Hill renovation budget to balloon from \$440 million to \$1.4 billion.

PROVINCIAL WINNERS

- 2020: The Yukon Department of Tourism and Culture bought gold to throw in a creek at a taxpayer-funded publicity stunt, which failed to draw the attention the department was looking for.
- 2019: British Columbia's Clerk of the House Craig James and Sergeant-at-Arms Gary Lenz found themselves in a spending scandal that included purchasing a luxury watch and a log splitter.
- 2018: Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan won the Teddy after the province's auditor general called the plan "needlessly complex," concluding that over the next 30 years, it would ultimately cost taxpayers an additional \$39 billion (\$18 billion in borrowed funds, plus \$21 billion in interest costs).
- 2017: Ontario's Electric Vehicle Incentive Program spent more than \$39 million on subsidies for electric vehicles over six years.
- 2016: P.E.I.'s Department of Tourism and Culture printed 180,000 copies of its tourism guide in 2015, with a cover featuring a man and a woman relaxing on a sandy beach, with the woman reading a book and the man in shorts lying back and relaxing. Unfortunately, the department clearly failed to notice a bulge in the man's shorts that appeared to be an erection.
- 2015: Ontario's Ministry of Energy installed 4.8 million smart meters, incurring a cost overrun of \$900 million.
- 2014: The since-fired Toronto Pan-Am Games boss earned \$552,065 a year claimed \$8,500 for a lavish party in Mexico and increased the games' cost to \$2.5 billion - fully \$1.1 billion over budget.
- 2013: Former Alberta tourism minister Christine Cusanelli committed the Alberta government to \$113,000 in empty hotel rooms.
- 2012: Twenty-one Alberta MLAs earned \$1,000 monthly as members of a committee that hadn't held a meeting in over three years.

- 2011: Ontario tax collectors were paid severance even though they retained their jobs. They were paid up to \$45,000 each in severance for changing their business cards from "Ontario PST collector" to "Federal HST collector."
- 2010: Nova Scotia MLAs had some outrageous expense claims. The all-star was MLA Len Goucher, who expensed the Xbox game Dance Dance Revolution.
- 2009: All Nations Coordinated Response Network in Manitoba hosted a spa day for its employees. Tarot card readings, makeup lessons, manicures and pedicures were some of the activities at the "workshop."
- 2008: Québec's former lieutenant-governor Lise Thibault lavishly spent \$825 for a suite at the Ritz-Carlton in Montréal; \$59,000 for a garden party; \$4,000 for a family member's birthday party; \$45,000 for gifts with no list of recipients provided; and \$2,400 for a five-night stay at a Mont Tremblant ski resort.



- 2007: Hydro One CEO Tom Parkinson cashed in on \$45,000 in personal expenses, a \$1.5-million salary and a \$3-million severance cheque.
- 2005: Former Saskatchewan premier Roy Romanow and government bureaucrats at Saskwater (a province-owned utility), together decided the prairie province needed a homegrown potato industry. The corporate welfare boondoggle eventually cost taxpayers \$36 million when the potato farm went bankrupt.
- 2004: The Manitoba Arts Council awarded \$5,000 to fund Aliza Amihude's jewelry made with her toenails, pubic hair, mouse droppings and dead ladybugs.
- 2003: The City of Winnipeg spent \$1-million on a toilet.
- 2002: The Alberta government refused to properly clarify former treasurer Stockwell Day's eligibility for so-called insurance coverage under its Risk Management Fund and refused to challenge the \$732,064 in legal bills, paid for by taxpayers to settle the \$60,000 defamation claim of Lorne Goddard against Day.
- 2001: The Saskatchewan Investment and Gaming Authority and its former CEO squandered \$1.7 million of public money.
- 2000: The British Columbia government's Fast Ferry Fiasco was a \$454-million boondoggle.
- 1999: The Government of British Columbia spent \$400,000 on a photo radar photo verification manual. At 2,637 words, this manual cost \$152 per word.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- 2020 Montréal mayor Michael Applebaum
- 2019 Governor General Adrienne Clarkson
- 2018 The City of Calgary's public art program
- 2017 The Government of Ontario's energy program
- 2016 Bombardier Inc.
- 2015 Greater Vancouver's transportation authority, TransLink
- 2014 The Canadian Senate
- 2013 MP Bev Oda
- 2012 Québec separatist and Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe
- 2011 Toronto mayor David Miller
- 2010 MPs' gold-plated pensions
- 2009 The Chrysler-General Motors bailout from the federal and Ontario governments
- 2008 The Canadian Tax Code
- 2007 Ontario premier Dalton McGuinty
- 2006 Federal cabinet minister David Dingwall
- 2005 Federal cabinet minister André Ouellet
- 2004 Governor General Adrienne Clarkson
- 2003 Prime Minister Jean Chrétien
- 2002 Federal cabinet minister Brian Tobin
- 2001 BC premier Glen Clark
- 2000 Federal heritage minister Sheila Copps
- 1999 Conservative finance minister Michael Wilson

MUNICIPAL WINNERS (2005 TO 2015)

- 2020: City of Toronto Parks and Recreation investigated local community centres for evidence of seniors playing euchre.
- 2019: The City of Vancouver's park board spent \$7,000 to let residents have conversations with trees. Local residents sent emails to trees. Artists, who were paid a stipend, sent replies on the trees' behalf.
- 2018: The City of Montréal spent \$34 million on Formula E car races. The 2017 event was a flop, selling only 25,000 out of 45,000 tickets and featuring mostly empty bleachers.
- 2017: The City of Victoria's Blue Bridge saga cost taxpayers bigtime. The city's Johnson Street bridge spans 100 metres across the B.C. capital's harbour, and needed to be replaced. After years of reports, the eventual cost skyrocketed to \$105 million and stacked up a three-year delay.
- 2016: The City of Calgary spent \$246,000 on sewage-related art at the Forest Lawn "poop palace."
- 2015: Halifax Councillor Brad Johns bought a \$25,000 robotic Christmas tree at taxpayers' expense.
- 2014: Vancouver's TransLink built a \$4.5-million parking lot that no one uses.
- 2013: The Toronto Maintenance and Skilled Trades Council billed the Toronto District School Board \$143 to attach a pencil sharpener to a desk and \$266 to hang three pictures on a wall.
- 2012: Montréal's snow-plow service plowed sidewalks before any snow fell.
- 2011: The City of Edmonton spent \$5,000 on a contest to get people to write poems or haikus about riding the bus, despite already paying an official city poet laureate another \$5,000 a year to write poetry for the city.



- 2010: During Toronto's homeless audit, the city paid people \$100 daily to dress up and pretend to be homeless. Real homeless people could not apply for the job.
- 2009: The City of Vancouver's 2010 Olympic athletes' village incurred \$875 million in debt building the condos.
- 2008: Former Toronto Catholic School Board trustee Christine Nunziata expensed vacations in Cuba and the Dominican Republic.
- 2007: The City of Edmonton spent \$30,000 to hire 30 actors in Washington to hand out yo-yos in the US capital on Canada Day.
- 2006: Richmond, B.C., council members took 16 trips around the world at taxpayers' expense.
- 2005: Toronto City Hall spent \$853,000 on hotel rooms for the homeless, who never checked in.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF HONOURING CANADA'S TAXFIGHTERS



by **Jasmine Moulton**
Ontario Director

While our mission often keeps us focused the negative aspects of government, there's a silver lining to this line of work: it has connected us with many outstanding individuals over the years who share our passion for lower taxes, less waste and more accountability.

We believe their courage and dedication should be recognized and celebrated. That's why we created the TaxFighter Award. The award is given to those who have contributed significantly to the cause of taxpayer emancipation.

The TaxFighter Award is the CTF's highest honour. It has been given to lawmakers, media personalities, academics and average citizens who have stood out and stood up in fighting for limited and accountable government. Recipients are nominated both internally and externally by CTF supporters and members of the public.

There are many notable TaxFighter Award recipients who come to mind as we reflect on the last 30 years of the CTF.

The CTF's first TaxFighter Award was given to Paul Pagnuelo in 1996. Paul was working as an executive at the Bank of Montréal at the time while spending countless hours, evenings and weekends volunteering as our communications director in Ontario. Even though the CTF didn't have the funds at the time to open an Ontario office, Paul was well known around Queen's Park from countless media interviews and organizing rallies.

From working 70-hour weeks and cashing in vacation time for the taxpayer cause, Paul was a clear choice to be the first recipient

of the CTF's TaxFighter Award. He laid the groundwork for the CTF to expand and open an Ontario office to benefit taxpayers in that province for years to come.

Former Ontario Premier Mike Harris was the first politician to win the TaxFighter Award. In 1999, Harris made good on an election promise by passing the Taxpayer Protection and Balanced Budget Act, which was the most comprehensive legislation in the country at the time to protect current taxpayers and future generations against high taxing, big spending governments.

Upon accepting the award, Harris remarked, "there is no such thing as government money – it's taxpayers' money. Government must always ensure that the people's money is spent wisely and well." Music to our ears.

Nearly two decades later and three provinces to the west, four recipients jointly won the TaxFighter Award. Based out of the University of Calgary, the CTF recognized the Calgary School, comprised of Tom Flanagan, Barry Cooper, Ted Morton and Rainer Knopff, for decades of contributions to the limited government movement in Canada. These professors provided intellectual ammunition in the fight for a freer country. The impact of their legacy lives on as Calgary School students have since gone on to play important leadership roles across the country.

Dave Rutherford was the first member of the media to win a TaxFighter Award in 1999. An award-winning Canadian broadcaster and radio personality, Dave

is known for his pointed commentary including on many topics affecting taxpayers. For 20 years, Dave held politicians to account on The Rutherford Show before retiring in 2013. Government accountability requires robust and independent media to ask the tough questions, which is why we've continued to recognize many journalists over the years.

Similarly, Terence Corcoran, columnist and comment editor for the financial post, was presented the TaxFighter Award in 2017. The CTF's former board chairman, Adam Daifallah, praised his work:

"Terry Corcoran has devoted his entire career to advancing a core set of convictions: lower taxes, smaller government, less government waste, and common-sense public policy. [He] advocated these ideas in print for more than four decades — long before they were considered in vogue. In so doing he not only helped push these ideas into the mainstream, he created a safe space for a whole generation of previously ignored opinion writers and thinkers."

While academics, journalists and politicians have received the TaxFighter Award, one of the most recent and notable recipients hails from Onion Lake Cree First Nation, located on the border between Alberta and Saskatchewan. In 2014, Charmaine Stick went on a 13-day hunger strike to demand accountability and transparency at her First Nation.

Sadly, when the Trudeau government took office in 2015, Ottawa stopped enforcing the act. Charmaine was abandoned, but she wasn't about to stand down. She partnered with the CTF, and



First Nations activist Charmaine Stick receiving the TaxFighter Award from VP, Communications Todd MacKay (left) and CEO Scott Hennig (right) in 2019.

together we took her chief and council to court. The court forced the band council to release its financial information, and Charmaine's suspicions were justified. The band council had been squandering money including losing more than a million dollars on a bad investment into a New Zealand tech company.

Charmaine's fight didn't stop there. She brought a petition with more than 30,000 signatures to Ottawa to demand government accountability and transparency. The CTF formally recognized her courage with the TaxFighter Award in 2019, and we'll continue to support her fight.

Without question the CTF will always throw more brickbats than bouquets. But rest assured when someone demonstrates their commitment to the cause of taxpayer emancipation, we will be there with a TaxFighter Award in hand. **T**



Jason Kenney presenting the CTF's first TaxFighter Award to Paul Pagnuelo in 1996.



Former Reform MPs Werner Schmidt, Preston Manning and Lee Morrison receiving the TaxFighter Award in 2013 for opting out of the gold-plated MP pension plan.



Former Toronto Sun financial editor Linda Leatherdale receiving the TaxFighter Award from former CEO Troy Lanigan in 2005.

BUILDING A NATIONAL MOVEMENT IN SEVEN YEARS



by **Kris Rondolo**
Executive Director of Generation Screwed

When Generation Screwed started in 2013, the movement began with only a handful of students and former Canadian Taxpayers Federation interns. Like many others, they were frustrated with the fact that students on campus barely talked about the ideas of liberty, small government and

intergenerational fairness in school. Many students had never even been exposed to these ideas. Though critically important, they certainly did not have a regular place in mainstream political discourse. Then-CTF president Troy Lanigan knew that something had to change on campus.

Troy had a passion for driving change through advocacy and education on campus. Since the launch of GS, that passion has remained part of the organization.

But passion was not enough. We needed to fight smart.

Today, GS is active on university campuses across Canada. But GS did not become the movement it is today by accident; in fact, it took years of hard work, support from the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, the generosity of visionary donors and most importantly, training.

A core part of GS is our annual training session, during which we host many of our promising campus coordinators, both newly recruited and campaign hardened advocates. The training both rewards those student coordinators who went above and beyond in their GS activism on campus and brings students together to get to know their counterparts across the country, bonding as teammates with the common goal of fighting big government, wasteful spending and unfair debt.

Most importantly, however, our training session serves as our one-stop-shop for immersive, hands-on training, allowing student coordinators to learn directly from CTF directors.

326,350+

VIDEO VIEWS ON FACEBOOK.

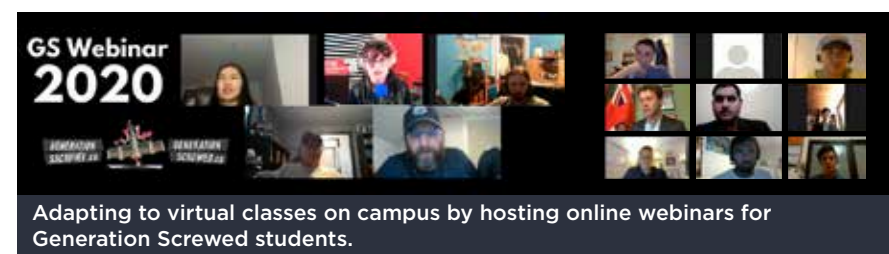
In previous years, we would organize a four-day training program with CTF directors to help our student coordinators learn skills such as filing Access to Information requests, researching policies and budgets, writing compelling commentary for their local or school paper, social media advocacy, and creating compelling infographics and videos to share and educate young Canadians on our issues.

For the first time in seven years, we've rolled-out our first online GS training webinars. At first, we were

concerned that because webinars can be impersonal and passive rather than interactive, we would suffer from low enrollment numbers in comparison to our usual training program. That was not the case. In fact, we matched last year's training attendance with 21 students registering and completing a GS webinar in August. We even welcomed our first high school student and coordinator who placed within the top four performers in our "Access to Information Fundamentals" course.

The training program has proven effective in molding student coordinators into not only stellar student advocates but also advocacy leaders and policymakers pushing for small government.

Despite legitimate concerns that the pandemic has introduced an entire generation to dependence on government handouts, the fiscal mismanagement and eyebrow-raising scandals from the federal government have also turned a new group of young Canadians into first-time advocates for lower taxes, less waste, and accountable government.



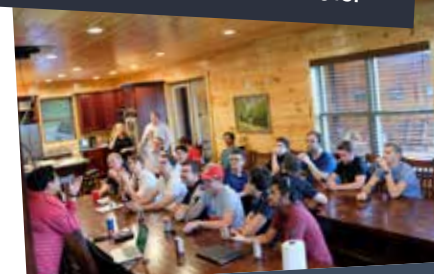
2
DEBT CLOCK
tours to
campuses
across the
country.

145+
STUDENT COORDINATORS
TRAINED FROM 2013-2020.

8
Annual retreats
and training
programs.



Our first training session in 2013.



Our coordinator training in 2019.

Without young Canadians educating their peers on the excesses of government and the price they and future generations will pay if nothing changes, we risk the next generation growing up apathetic to crushing government debt. We risk the next generation being, well, screwed.

With past, present, and future GS coordinators being some of the most well-trained student advocates in the country, we've racked up some pretty impressive numbers. We're having an impact.

From undertaking national and regional campaigns to holding hundreds of local advocacy events in cities across Canada, GS coordinators pushed their advocacy from university and college campuses onto the national stage.

Our movement has grown, thanks to the dedication and hard work of our young volunteers. There would be no Generation Screwed movement without them.

Now, more than ever, GS has to keep the next generation of tax fighters and spending watchdogs informed, involved, and vocal about the excesses of government and the debt burden politicians are passing down to Canada's youth, who are expected to pay it off.

We'll be there to train the next generation to fight for the taxpayers of today and tomorrow. **1**

Success stories

Many former Generation Screwed coordinators have completed their education and have joined Canada's labour force in their field of study. Here are a few who are still working within the public policy realm.



BRETT BYERS-LANE: Brett now has a hand in communicating sound fiscal policy as Communications and Digital Media Manager for the Macdonald-Laurier Institute.



DANIEL PERRY: Daniel is the latest recipient of the Doug Finley Leadership scholarship, one of Canada's prestigious political scholarships. Daniel is also working for a public affairs firm in Ottawa.



PATRICK BEACHAM: Patrick went on to lead one of the country's largest economic student associations after he helped us launch our "Explained" campaign, through which we introduce students to basic economic principles and theories through short and easy to understand videos.



RENAUD BROSSARD: Renaud was hired by the CTF to run Generation Screwed shortly after his graduation. Since then he has been promoted to our Québec communications director and scored ratepayers in Québec a \$1.5 billion victory in 2019.



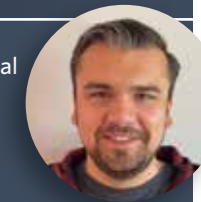
CAITLYN MADLENER: Caitlyn has gone on to work as a Creative Director at an Alberta-based digital agency. The firm has worked on some of the biggest election campaigns in Canada over the past five years.



ZAHRA SULTANI: Zahra started working for Ontario PC headquarters shortly after university. After the 2018 provincial campaign, Zahra started working as political aid for Hon. Rod Phillips in the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks. She is currently working as Senior Consultant at Loyalist Public Affairs.



TYLER LIVELY: After graduating Tyler went to work in communications and issues management for the Ford Government. He now serves as a senior policy advisor at the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services.



MARK JACKA: Mark went on to be the director of political operations for a provincial political party, before heading to Ottawa to work for an MP. He's now back in Alberta and is currently chief of staff to a provincial cabinet minister.

SCORING WINS FOR TAXPAYERS ON CANADA'S LEFT COAST



BC director Kris Sims fleeing from the ICBC Monopoly man on the lawn of the BC Legislature in Victoria in 2019.



by Kris Sims
BC Director

Our reputation in beautiful British Columbia as the wacky cousin in the Canadian family is well earned. But our eccentricities also fuel powerful grassroots action in the form of recall votes and referendums.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is proud to have helped plant the seeds that made this direct democracy, and the long fight for accountable government, possible.

Here on the west coast, for example, Members of the Legislative Assembly can be recalled between elections and fired if they're not living up to the promises that got them elected.

The CTF created non-partisan toolkits for local ratepayers' groups so they could

launch campaigns to sack their MLAs if the majority of their constituents decided they were doing a shabby job.

When there's a big issue such as the Harmonized Sales Tax, or an overhaul of our voting system, in B.C. we can hold a vote and ask the people of our province directly.

In 2015, then-CTF B.C. director Jordan Bateman led the "No" side in a referendum over a 0.5% TransLink Tax to be imposed on the people of Metro Vancouver. It would have heaped an extra cost onto the already over-taxed people living in one of the most expensive places on Earth.

Most of the politicians, bureaucrats, talking heads and the media figured the TransLink Tax was a done deal, and that people would embrace a new tax because they like taking the SkyTrain. The polls reflected that. The first poll showed

the pro-tax side winning 52% to 39%.

But the CTF's campaign worked, and the "No" side won 62% to 38%.

Lower mainland residents from Maple Ridge to West Vancouver to Delta said "No" to the new tax and told the big city mayors to use their existing bloated budgets to fund their shiny new transit dreams. Taxpayers won the fight against the TransLink Tax.

While it's an important victory, especially as no other city in Canada has dared impose a general tax to pay for transit since, these wins are not permanent. The battle for lower taxes and more accountable government wages on.

After years of pounding on the table, the CTF convinced the B.C. government to cancel the Medical Services Premium, which cost the average person about \$140 per month – a huge expense for

many families. B.C. Premier John Horgan's NDP government first reduced it, then cancelled it altogether.

The catch? Instead of reducing wasteful spending, the government invented the Employer Health Tax to replace the MSP.

Now we're fighting to get the EHT cancelled. Small businesses and municipalities are being strangled by this big new cost, and we're sharing their stories far and wide.

The CTF has helped win many fights in the quest for more accountability and transparency in B.C.

In 2015, after years of advocacy by the CTF and tireless reporting from newspaperman Rob Shaw, MLAs finally started posting all of their expenses online, so taxpayers could check to see what the politicians are spending their money on. It sounds like a no-brainer, but it took years to achieve this level of transparency.

In 2019, the fight for transparency continued.

In the wake of the bombshell investigation by Speaker Darryl Plecas – revealing the clerk and the sergeant-at-arms at B.C.'s legislature blew tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars on everything from a wood-splitter to lavish overseas trips – the CTF demanded a full independent investigation. We also demanded that officers of the legislature post all of their expenses online.

We also gave these fine chaps the Teddy Waste award.

It worked.

Former Supreme Court Justice Beverley McLachlin was appointed to conduct an independent investigation in March 2019. In February 2020 executive staff expenses were posted online for the first time.

We're still fighting to have the speaker, the clerk and the sergeant-at-arms all be subject to Freedom of Information requests.

Today, the biggest campaign we're waging in B.C. aims to stop the government from forcing taxpayers to purchase car insurance through the monopolistic Insurance Corporation of British Columbia. Drivers in our province are compelled to deal with this 1970s-era crown corporation and as a result, we pay the highest auto insurance rates in Canada.

A working man driving a pick-up in Surrey is paying around \$660 more per

year than an identical counterpart in Calgary. The difference is the Calgary driver can shop around for the best rate and bundle his insurance needs at a big discount. B.C. drivers have no such choice. They are forced to deal with ICBC and pay the highest rates. It's like having one grocery store chain for the entire province, and it's run by the government. Not great.

Since driving an automobile is essential for the vast majority of people, this government monopoly effectively creates a high tax. That has to change.

The CTF is famous for stunts and mascots. People take notice when our resident pig, Porky the Waste Hater and our long-nosed wooden puppet, Fibber, dance onto the scene. These funny props send a strong message and they command the attention of decisionmakers.

To protest ICBC's monopoly and make politicians wake up to the need for competition in auto insurance, we created a monopolist man, Barron von FenderBender, and added him to our character roster. He's 30 feet tall – bigger than King Kong. He wears an ICBC-blue suit and branded top hat while he's burning through our money at a frightening pace.

The CTF inflated Barron von FenderBender on the lawn of the legislature in Victoria, in the Comox Valley and up north in Prince George.

The media flocked to get a picture and ask politicians what they were doing about this ICBC monster.



Then-BC director Mark Milke meeting with then-opposition leader Gordon Campbell in 2000.

ICBC is burning through about \$1 billion per year, losing cash because it's a bloated and mismanaged government bureaucracy. Even the minister in charge of it called it a "dumpster fire." No, really!

The term was so catchy in the media that we found an actual dumpster, painted it blue, slapped an ICBC logo on it and set it on fire.

We photographed and recorded the blaze on video, then sent it to all the media in the province, for free. They now use the footage when they talk about the ICBC Dumpster Fire.

While the NDP government hasn't yet agreed to dethrone ICBC's monopoly, the leader of the opposition, Andrew Wilkinson has publicly stated that he wants to stop the monopoly and open ICBC up to competition.

We will hold him to that.

Here's to 30 more years of setting fires and holding politicians' feet to them. **t**



Then-BC director Jordan Bateman holding a press conference outside a gas station in Vancouver in 2014.

THREE DECADES of setting the pace in Alberta



by Franco
Terrazzano
Alberta Director

Over the last three decades we have achieved some of our biggest victories in Alberta. From balanced budgets and flat taxes to enhancing transparency, the Canadian Taxpayers Federation has been remarkably successful in pushing Alberta politicians to be leaders of fiscal responsibility for the rest of Canada.

ALBERTA TAXPAYER PROTECTION ACT

One of our largest and longest-lasting victories is the implementation of the Alberta Taxpayer Protection Act, which requires a majority vote in a referendum before politicians can impose a provincial sales tax.

During the early 90s, the CTF's young Jason Kenney pushed then-premier Ralph Klein to introduce taxpayer protection legislation. Alberta is now the only province without a sales tax, and the Alberta Taxpayer Protection Act is a big reason why no politician has dared to introduce a PST.

With sales tax advocates again banging the drum for a PST, the CTF sent now-Premier Kenney a letter asking him to confirm that his government would uphold the Alberta Taxpayer Protection Act. Kenney responded to us with this: "As long as I am Premier, Albertans will have the final say through a fair referendum vote on whether a hypothetical sales tax should be introduced."

BALANCED BUDGETS AND DEBT REPAYMENT

While the CTF fought for and won balanced budget laws across Western and Central Canada in the 1990s, the success in Alberta was the most pronounced. Not only did the Alberta government agree with our calls for balanced budgets, it implemented balanced budget legislation and a debt repayment law. The result was 14 straight years of balanced budgets and the government repaying more than \$22 billion in debt before becoming debt free in 2005.

TAX CUTS

A key win for the CTF was Alberta's 10 per cent flat tax. In 1998, Alberta finance minister Stockwell Day launched an income tax review. Former Association of Alberta Taxpayers advisory board member and then-MLA Ron Hierath was appointed to serve on the committee. Our Alberta director Mark Milke authored a report calling for the province to introduce a flat tax with a generous basic personal exemption. The CTF pushed the idea in the public while Hierath pushed the idea within government. The result was exactly what the CTF wanted and Alberta's 10 per cent flat tax came into effect in 2001. Unfortunately, the flat tax came to an end in 2015.

The CTF won another victory when the Alberta government eliminated

its health-care premium in 2008. Our campaign to eliminate this tax was launched by Alberta director John Carpay in 2003 following Klein's tax hike. Scott Hennig took over the CTF's fight in 2005 and delivered thousands of petitions demanding the repeal of the tax. Premier Ed Stelmach eventually eliminated the health-care premium in his 2008 budget.

Ever since Alberta's New Democrats imposed their carbon tax, we made it our mission to fight it in the court of law and in the court of public opinion. And we've been successful on both fronts. After the CTF pushed back hard against the NDP's carbon tax in media interviews, newspaper articles, billboards and on social media, every United Conservative Party leadership candidate signed a pledge to scrap the provincial carbon tax within 100 days of taking office. The newly elected UCP government ended the carbon tax with their first government bill. The CTF was also the only non-government intervenor on the side of taxpayers in the Alberta government's court challenge against the federal carbon tax. The Alberta court of appeal ruled on the side of taxpayers, going so far as to describe the federal carbon tax as a "Trojan horse" that "substantially overrides" several parts of the constitution.

In its 2001 budget, the Klein-government promised to lower business taxes to eight per cent, and the CTF has been pushing the government to make good on its



Franco Terrazzano leading the No Calgary Olympics campaign in 2018.

promise ever since. With the UCP making good on its promise to lower the business tax to eight per cent, Alberta now has the lowest rate in Canada and lower than in 44 American states.

POLITICIANS' PAY AND PERKS

In 1992, then-premier Ralph Klein did not take kindly to a young Jason Kenney attacking the gold-plated MLA pension plan. Klein responded with false claims about the CTF. Kenney went to the Alberta legislature to scrum with the media about Klein's claims, but his scrum was interrupted by the premier and the two went head-to-head. Kenney's cool demeanor and valid criticism won the debate. Within days, Klein informed his caucus that their pensions were gone. And not just effective immediately, but retroactive to 1989.

In 2001, Alberta MLAs started to gold-plate their transition allowances. And in 2008, these transition allowances became platinum-plated. Former speaker Ken Kowalski walked away with \$1.2 million while Premier Stelmach took home \$1 million. The CTF started to gain traction on MLA pay and transition allowances in 2012 when we gave our infamous Teddy Waste Award to 21 Alberta MLAs who were being paid \$1,000 per month to sit on a committee that hadn't met since 2008. We attracted a ton of media attention and the issue



Jason Kenney holding a press conference with stacks of signed petitions calling for Alberta MLAs to reform their gold-plated pension program.

became a focus of the 2012 provincial election. Premier Allison Redford declared that her MLAs running for re-election would pay back all of their no-meet-committee pay and transition allowances were eliminated for anyone elected in the 2012 election or later.

TRANSPARENCY

In the 90s, the Klein-government agreed to the CTF's demands for freedom-of-information legislation. Expense scandals also led the government to adopt the CTF recommendation for an online expense disclosure website in 2012. In 2013, we led a successful campaign to create a sunshine list that would display six-figure government salaries.

DEFEATING CALGARY'S 2026 OLYMPIC BID BOONDOGGLE

In 2018, Calgary councillors were pushing for their chance to host the 2026 winter Olympics on taxpayers' dime. The Olympic bid corporation estimated that the games would cost \$5 billion, with taxpayers footing roughly \$3 billion of the total tab through all three levels of government. The CTF led the fight against this boondoggle and early on we successfully pushed the provincial government to make its



Scott Hennig burning his health care premium bill to celebrate its elimination in 2008.

funding conditional on a referendum.

We faced an uphill battle against the taxpayer-funded YES side. But through a ton of publicity stunts and a get-out-the-vote campaign, the CTF was able to convince Calgary voters to oppose the bid. In August 2018, polls showed that 53 per cent of Calgarians were planning to vote YES. However, after the CTF campaign, 56 per cent of Calgary voters voted NO. Unsurprisingly, we were outspent by a wide margin.

Some of the victories won in Alberta over the past 30 years have been undone (balanced budgets, debt elimination and the flat tax). We are reminded that no public policy victory is forever, no defeat everlasting. In the decades ahead we look forward to continuing to fight for taxpayers in Alberta while setting the pace for the rest of the country. **t**

FROM CLEAN OFFICES TO COLD BEERS – Victories aplenty in Saskatchewan



by **Todd MacKay**
Prairie Director

Walk into any coffee shop in Saskatchewan and it's clear that just about any political topic is up for debate. But some things aren't a matter of opinion ... they're just facts. Here's one: beer should be cold.

Yet, somehow, for decades, the Saskatchewan government had rules forcing retailers to sell warm beer.

Is cold beer the world's most important issue? Nope. But it was the tip of the iceberg of massive overregulation and helped expose the accountability void looming beneath.

To address the beer issue, the Canadian Taxpayers Federation built a coalition with hotels and restaurants to get the legislature out of the fridges of the province.

The symbol of a frosty pint made the point. In 2015, Saskatchewan took its biggest step forward on liquor policy since the end of Prohibition. It got rid of all of the unfair pricing schemes which had pitted different types of liquor stores against one another. While the government kept a few liquor stores, it closed the most inefficient outlets and allowed dozens of private liquor stores to open up. And now beer is where it belongs: in the cooler.

The CTF's roots are deep in Saskatchewan. In the 1980s, soaring debt gave way to the massive GST. Kevin Avram, Norm Wallace, Norm Baker and a few other organizers recognized the need to fight government spending before it triggered tax hikes. In 1990, that

vision ultimately became the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

This new organization got straight to work.

When most people leave a job, they take a cardboard box full of personal items. Back then, MLAs took a lot more. In fact, they took everything in the office: desks, chairs, computers; everything. It was called the clean-office policy. It was also obviously unfair to taxpayers who paid for that office equipment. By 1992, the CTF had scored an important victory and ended the policy.

But much bigger fights were coming. Grant Devine's Progressive Conservative government had lost control of the budget. Credit rating downgrades battered the province to near insolvency. The CTF's criticism was so scathing that the premier accused the organization of being the research arm of the opposition NDP.

Balanced budgets had gone from a political nicety to an urgent necessity. In 1995, the CTF led the charge to see the Balanced Budget Act passed. NDP premier Roy Romanow and former finance minister Janice MacKinnon dramatically reduced the province's spending and closed 52 rural hospitals.

It was a hard time in Saskatchewan, but the province started to turn a corner in the early 2000s. The CTF pushed politicians to lower taxes so that businesses could get started and grow. The politicians listened.

"These business tax cuts will help build a better future, by making our economy more competitive, and by encouraging business to invest more and create new

jobs right here at home," said the NDP's finance minister Andrew Thomson in his 2006 budget speech.

Saskatchewan kicked off a multi-year plan to cut business taxes from 17% to 12%.

When then-premier Brad Wall's Saskatchewan Party swept to power, he kept cutting those business taxes, but he went much further, slashing personal income taxes and paying down billions in debt.

But the CTF didn't run out of work. While oil and potash prices were soaring, government spending soared too and there wasn't much of a plan for the time when prices would inevitably fall again.

Saskatchewan's provincial debt started going up again in 2015. The province borrowed \$700 million for infrastructure spending. Provincial politicians were shocked when the CTF rolled out the famous Debt Clock to show how fast Saskatchewan's debt was going up.

Those warnings foreshadowed reality.

Saskatchewan's deficit grew. The debt led to a predictable shock: the province dramatically expanded items subject to the provincial sales tax and increased it by one percentage point. That move cost taxpayers about a billion dollars per year. And it wasn't just the big things Saskatchewan backtracked on; the government also brought back bracket creep, allowing inflation to push taxpayers into higher tax brackets and costing them millions.

But the CTF was already pushing the province to get back on track and the victories started rolling in. The province



Then-Saskatchewan director Richard Truscott launching our tax cut billboard in Regina.



Then-Saskatchewan director David MacLean delivering the CTF's pre-budget recommendations to then-Opposition leader Brad Wall in 2007.

finally shut down its money-losing Crown bus company. It started rolling back parts of the PST expansion by taking it off many insurance products. And even as it struggled with COVID-19, Saskatchewan did the right thing by ending bracket creep and once again indexing tax brackets to inflation.

The Saskatchewan government has gone back and forth on many taxpayer issues, but its been firm on one critical point from the beginning: carbon taxes.

When Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced his federal carbon tax, Wall was the only premier opposing the scheme and the CTF was one of the only organizations standing with him.

When Premier Scott Moe was environment minister, the CTF presented him with petition signatures from thousands of Saskatchewanians supporting the province's fight against the carbon tax.

When Moe became premier, Saskatchewan led the legal challenge against the federal carbon tax. That fight is now going to the Supreme Court of Canada. And the Canadian Taxpayers Federation is the only non-government organization going to the Supreme Court to fight the carbon tax.

Today, many other provinces have joined the fight against the carbon tax.

Saskatchewan is proof that no government is so bad that it can't be turned around. And it's proof that no government is so good that it can't stumble. In both cases, it's important to have the Canadian Taxpayers Federation there as a watchdog. **T**



Prairie director Todd MacKay delivering petitions supporting the Saskatchewan government's opposition to the federal carbon tax to then-environment minister Scott Moe in 2017.



Then-Saskatchewan director Moira Wright preparing to deliver thousands of signed petitions calling for the Saskatchewan government to pass a balanced budget law.



Then-Prairie director Colin Craig speaking to a rally of taxpayers angry about the PST hike on the steps of the Manitoba Legislature in 2013.

30 YEARS AND MANY WINS FOR TAXPAYERS



by **Todd MacKay**
Prairie Director

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation's work in Manitoba is a bit like picking rocks on the farm. It's satisfying to see some important policy victories pile up. But somehow more rocks get pushed to the surface and need to be picked the next year.

Nothing illustrates that better than Manitoba's perpetually resurfacing carbon tax.

Carbon taxes weren't a significant issue Manitoba's 2016 election. The incumbent NDP got hammered for raising the provincial sales tax and dropping a string of deficits that resulted in multiple credit rating downgrades. The CTF blasted every example of fiscal incompetence.

But when the newly elected Progressive Conservative Premier Brian Pallister took power, he unveiled a big surprise: a carbon tax. His government packaged the new tax with some

reductions to other taxes and its press release heralded the biggest tax cut in history. But the CTF wasn't fooled and we made sure nobody else was either: the carbon tax would add millions to the tax burden even after accounting for the tax reductions.

The CTF escalated the fight fast. We teamed up with the Western Canadian Wheat Growers and the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. The list of petition signatures opposing the carbon tax grew daily.

The pressure worked. Pallister called an election in 2019 and reversed his position entirely. He scrapped the provincial carbon tax. He proposed taking Ottawa to court to fight the federal carbon tax and appeared on the cover of Macleans magazine with other premiers standing up to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. He even launched a petition of his own stating, a "PC government will move forward with its Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan, without a carbon tax."

It was a huge victory for the

CTF, but it was no time to relax.

After the election, Pallister announced he would again impose a carbon tax. So here we are, fighting the Manitoba carbon tax once again.

That back and forth isn't new in Manitoba.

Back in 1995, the CTF submitted a detailed proposal for balanced budget legislation. When the budget came down, it looked familiar. It included many of the recommendations word for word. It included penalties for cabinet ministers who run deficits and the requirement to hold a referendum before any major tax hike.

For years, Manitoba balanced the books. Then the deficits started to creep in. Too often, that spirals to one place: tax hikes.

Former NDP premier Greg Selinger decided to raise the PST despite having promised not to. And he decided to do it by suspending the legislation requiring a referendum. The results were explosive. The CTF's then-Manitoba director



Then-premier Greg Selinger being followed by Fibber, the CTF's honesty-in-politics mascot as he walked from the Manitoba Legislature to meet the lieutenant governor asking for the 2016 election to be called.



Then-Manitoba director Adrienne Batra scrumming with the media.



Then-Manitoba director Victor Vrsnik launching our very first Gas Tax Honesty Day in 1999.

Colin Craig led huge rallies in front of the legislature denouncing the tax hike. A faction of Selinger's own cabinet denounced the premier and demanded his resignation.

Even though the province's tax hikes funneled hundreds of million from Manitobans to the government, the province's financial woes got worse. In 2015, credit rating agency DBRS warned that Manitoba's "weak fiscal discipline" would lead to further downgrades. By that time, the politicians had lost all grip on reality.

"We have a plan," said then-finance minister Greg Dewar. "Our plan is working."

That so-called plan ultimately drove the province's debt up to the point that today, the interest charges alone cost Manitobans more than a billion dollars every year.

But the CTF made sure people remembered what happened when it came time to go back to the polls.

When Selinger walked from the

legislature to the lieutenant governor's residence to call the 2016 election, a special guest walked with him: Fibber. Politicians who break promises often face the CTF's long-nosed, honesty-in-politics mascot. When Selinger took that fateful walk, Fibber was right there beside him with TV cameras rolling.

A few years later, the CTF scored another hard-fought victory when the new PC government rolled back that PST hike and restored requirements for referenda on major tax hikes.

The new government also started steadily shrinking the deficit. In fact, it was close to balancing the operational budget when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Despite that massive economic disruption, Manitoba has been more energetic about looking for savings than most other provinces.

Some policy battles that started in Manitoba have since spread across the country.

Victor Vrsnik was the CTF's Manitoba director in 1999 when he realized that

drivers were paying millions in gas taxes, but the province's roads and highways were full of potholes. He set out to change that. And a Taxpayer tradition was born: Gas Tax Honesty Day.

Every year, CTF directors across Canada hold press conferences and pull media stunts to show how many hidden taxes drivers are paying when they fill up.

Vrsnik's work paid off. Manitoba passed legislation requiring the government to put gas tax money back into infrastructure and clearly account for those funds. So did other provinces.

There's more work to do in Manitoba to be sure.

Pallister has again pumped the breaks on his carbon tax in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, but he's clearly committed to sneaking it through whenever and however he can. When he does, he'll face determined opposition from the Canadian Taxpayers Federation and Manitobans who oppose the cash grab. **T**

LOOKING BACK on the CTF's impact in Ontario



by **Jasmine Moulton**
Ontario Director

Premier Bob Rae was raising taxes and growing debt faster than you can say trillium when the Canadian Taxpayers Federation officially expanded to Ontario in 1993. Over the next 27 years, the CTF has given frustrated Ontarians a unified voice to remind governments that they work for taxpayers and not the other way around. We've won many victories in Ontario since then and take pride in having turned more than a few government cheeks red with embarrassment through various stunts and tours. Here are a few highlights of the impact the CTF has had in Ontario.

No amount of gas tax could deter CTF communications directors from firing up the mobile Debt Clock and driving it across the province to raise awareness of growing government debt. A foil to flowery politician promises, these tours are a sobering reminder for taxpayers: debt today means taxes tomorrow, and interest payments are a waste of money.

Ontario debt clock tours in the past decade include one led by past Federal director, Gregory Thomas, in 2011, and another by former Ontario director Candice Malcolm in 2013. These tours covered thousands of kilometres around Ontario and landed front-page coverage in many community newspapers.

Both tours took place during the 15-year tenure of the Ontario Liberal government, first under premier Dalton McGuinty, then under Kathleen Wynne when she took over as premier in 2013. During that time (from 2003 to 2018), Ontario's net debt more than doubled.

Today, under the Progressive Conservative government led by Premier Doug Ford, the province remains the most indebted province in Canada and one of the largest subnational debtors on the planet. Approaching \$400 billion, the province of Ontario's net debt is larger than that of many sovereign nations.

CTF directors have toured the province to raise awareness about

more than just provincial debt.

In 2017, former-Ontario director Christine Van Geyn decided to kick things up a notch and launched the Kathleen Wynne Moving Company campaign to spread the word that Wynne's environmental, labour, and energy policies were making Ontario unaffordable and driving people out of the province. The moving truck featured a picture of the premier's smiling face and read: "making it easy to move your family or business out of Ontario."

Asking politicians to sign a pledge to protect taxpayers is a tactic that the CTF has employed at key times over the past 30 years.



The Kathleen Wynne Moving Company truck parked outside of Queen's Park in 2017.



Christine Van Geyn inviting Doug Ford to sign the CTF's No Carbon Tax Pledge in 2018.



Before the provincial election in 1995, then-Ontario Progressive Conservative leader Mike Harris signed the CTF's Taxpayer Protection Pledge. In so doing, he pledged that if he became premier, he'd pass taxpayer protection legislation that would require a referendum for any tax hikes, eliminate the deficit, and penalize ministers who didn't meet deficit targets. In 1999, Harris made good on his promise and passed the Taxpayer Protection and Balanced Budget Act.

Within days of former Progressive Conservative Party leader Patrick Brown resigning, Van Geyn drafted a No Carbon Tax Pledge and invited all prospective party leadership candidates to sign. All four of them proudly signed. Shortly after his election as premier, Doug Ford stood by that promise and reversed the Wynne government's cap-and-trade carbon tax scheme.

While that pledge was an important tactic to ensure whoever

was elected leader would kill the cap-and-trade carbon tax, the work the CTF did through our Stop High Energy Bills campaign, and exposure of the costs of the Green Energy Act over the preceding years, certainly tilled the soil for that victory.

Taxpayers can hold politicians to account at election time, but sometimes the courts are required to hold politicians to account between elections. The CTF has brought the provincial and municipal governments in Ontario to court when necessary on behalf of taxpayers.

An early example of this was back in 2004 when the CTF and its former Ontario director, Tasha Kheiriddin, took the Ontario government, premier Dalton McGuinty, and finance minister Greg Sorbera to court over the legality of the health tax and the validity of McGuinty's signed promise to protect the taxpayers of Ontario through a CTF pledge. While we lost in court,

the taxpayer cause was strengthened in the province with a petition that received over 200,000 signatures and well as taxpayer rallies to pressure the government for accountability.

We followed that up by creating Fibber, our long-nosed honesty in politics mascot. Fibber followed around the Liberal campaign bus through the 2007 election campaign. Fibber has made additional appearances across the country, most recently in Toronto to remind Mayor John Tory to keep his promise not to hike taxes.

In 2018, the CTF won the right to intervene on behalf of taxpayers in the court battle over the size of Toronto city council. A candidate in the 2018 municipal election challenged the province's Better Local Government Act, which reduced the size of Toronto city council from 47 to 25 wards. After losing the initial case, we were victorious on appeal.

The CTF continues to be a force in Canada's most populous and most indebted province. **T**



Premier Mike Harris signing our Taxpayers Protection Pledge to not raise taxes without a referendum in 1995.



Then-Ontario director Tasha Kheiriddin chatting with the media after our No More Taxes, No More Lies rally at Queen's Park on June 9, 2004.

QUÉBEC:

FOUR-YEARS-IN



by **Renaud Brossard**
Québec Director

Québec is stereotypically known as the land of high taxes, big government and the place equalization money goes to die, but that's changing with the response we've had from Québécois in the four years the Canadian Taxpayers Federation has been active in the province.

We went from almost nothing to a group over 50,000 strong with the ability to win real victories for local taxpayers and hold tax-and-spend politicians accountable. Our victory over Hydro was our biggest one (and you can read all about it on page 21), but it was by no means our only one. Here are a issues we've worked on and the victories we have achieved in that time.

MONTREAL: POLICE CADETS, NOT POLICE OFFICERS, DOING TRAFFIC

Whether it's because of construction or just everyday rush-hour traffic, Montréal taxpayers were spending millions every year on full-fledged cops, with big salaries, pensions and benefits, doing traffic duty.

To make matters worse, the police officers assigned to those duties were billing overtime of upwards of \$60 per hour for between 100,000 and 200,000 hours per year.

This was a poor use of both police resources and taxpayers' money. Former CTF Québec director Carl Vallée worked with Mayor Denis Coderre's administration and the Projet Montréal

official opposition at city hall to push for a lower cost alternative.

Here's the solution they came up with: instead of using full-fledged police officers making \$60 per hour in overtime pay, the city would employ a small squad of police cadets at a cost of \$16 per hour to do traffic duty.

In 2018, the program's cost went down from \$10.3 million the previous year to \$3.3 million, all thanks to the use of much less expensive police cadets, and the CTF's pressure.

A NEW OBJECTIVE: EQUALIZATION-ZERO

Wherever we are, CTF tackles the federal equalization program. The way it is set-up now, equalization

disincentivizes provincial governments from developing their economy because they could lose tons of transfer payments.

And while the issue is prevalent in the so-called have provinces, provinces receiving millions from equalization don't usually question the program.

That's why it an important achievement when, after working to raise the issue in the province, then opposition-politician François Legault pledged that a Coalition avenir Québec government would aim to wean Québec off of equalization. He became premier and that pledge is now a government policy goal.

While Québec still gets tons of money from equalization, the fact that

the province's government now sees equalization as a symbol of failure is a massive step in the right direction. Even better is the fact this government now has a plan to make Québec into a have province and stop relying on other provinces' cash to cover its bills.

BOMBARDIER: A CONSTANT BATTLE

If there's a constant in Canadian and Québec politics, it's Bombardier asking for more government subsidies.

One of the first articles Vallée wrote for The Taxpayer magazine was about Bombardier. This tradition has been continued with multiple columns published about why taxpayers shouldn't put one more penny into the embattled jet manufacturer.

While Bombardier received taxpayer cash in 2017 in the form of a federal loan for \$372.5 million, it originally asked for a billion dollars in non-repayable loans (grants). Our campaign certainly saved taxpayers hundreds of millions of tax dollars. Moreover, our efforts in Québec have helped shift the way Bombardier is viewed in the province. It was once considered a landmark innovative company with deep roots in the province, but Québécois now see as nothing more than a professional subsidy seeker.

We'll keep working hard to stop future bailouts for Bombardier.

STOPPING A WASTEFUL WIND FARM

Right before the last provincial election, a \$600-million wind farm project was grabbing headlines in Québec. The expensive Apuiat project in Québec's Côte-Nord region was expected to produce 200 megawatts of power which Hydro-Québec would be forced to purchase at an average cost of 11.5 cents per kilowatt hour.

There were two major problems.

One: Thanks in large part to the giant dams it built between the late 1960s and early 1990s, the Crown corporation already had massive surplus of 18 terawatt hours, or enough electricity to power roughly 900,000 homes for a year.

And two: For Hydro, purchasing electricity at roughly 11.5 cents per kilowatt hour wouldn't make sense since its average consumer price for electricity is only eight cents per kilowatt hour. Even before accounting for transportation and distribution, they would lose 3.5 cents per kilowatt hour.

According to calculations from Le Journal de Québec, if this project had gone forward, it would have cost Québécois \$1.5 billion over the next 25 years to purchase this electricity we didn't need.

During the election, Legault and his Coalition avenir Québec campaigned against the project, saying it would be a total waste of money and was not needed. However, after the election, the new minister of energy seemed to change his tune, suggesting he was considering going forward with the project after all.

We were having none of it.

We organized an email campaign from our supporters over the weekend, asking them to email the minister of energy and tell him to say no to the Apuiat project. The next Tuesday, he announced the project wouldn't go forward.



If there's a constant in Canadian and Québec politics, it's Bombardier asking for **more government subsidies.**

PUSHING FOR MORE TRANSPARENCY

Taxpayers in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario have sunshine lists where they can look up high-earning government employees' salaries. If taxpayers are forced to pay for these salaries, they should be able to know what they are getting.



Carl Vallée planting a flower in a pothole during Gas Tax Honesty Day in 2017.

Québec, on the other hand, is one of the provinces where no such list existed. And while the provincial government would publish such a list for directors and above, we know they are not the only government employees earning huge salaries at taxpayers' expense. So we decided to make our own list.

It took more than 3,000 access to information requests and dozens of hours of dealing with bureaucrats over the phone to compile the data. We received thousands of pages worth of government documents that we had to analyze, but we got our answer.

Nearly 43,500 Québec bureaucrats get salaries of upwards of \$100,000 per year. But the beauty of this list is not just how we were able to raise awareness about just how expensive bureaucrats' salaries can be, but also what journalists were able to do with it.

For instance, one journalist from the *Montréal Gazette* used our list to find out the City of Montréal pays one out of every six bureaucrats salaries of more than six figures. That is compared with about one out of every 14 Québécois.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation's work in Québec is just beginning. There's a lot more work to do. But the organization is already achieving significant victories for taxpayers in the province. **T**



Kevin Lacey (left), then-federal director Kevin Gaudet and then-president Troy Lanigan launching the Atlantic division of the CTF at Peggy's Cove in 2010.



Alberta director Franco Terrazzano (left) and Paige MacPherson with New Brunswick Premier Blaine Higgs.

CTF'S ATLANTIC OFFICE CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF FIGHTING FOR TAXPAYERS



by Paige MacPherson
Atlantic Director

As the CTF is celebrating 30 years fighting for taxpayers, the CTF's Atlantic office is celebrating its 10-year anniversary.

In 2010, the Atlantic office launched like a cold splash of water on Atlantic politicians, with the release of a report highlighting the gold-plated MLA pensions in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

In Nova Scotia, MLAs were getting \$22 for every \$1 they contributed to their pensions. In New Brunswick, MLAs were cashing in on \$16 for every \$1 they put in. That meant taxpayers – many of whom had no pensions themselves –

were paying the bulk of this gold-plated plan and MLAs were departing their jobs with gilded handshakes. The CTF report, released by then-Atlantic director Kevin Lacey, broke down the numbers on what each MLA was walking away with. The result? Both MLA pension plans were scaled back. And Atlantic Canadians had a new government watchdog in town.

MAKING OUR DEBT CLOCK MATTER TO POLITICIANS

For the past decade, the CTF has been fighting for debt reduction in every Atlantic province, like we do across Canada. Make no mistake: debt is not the sexiest issue, but the CTF works hard to keep the debt front and centre

for politicians, the media and the public. There are few places where reducing the debt is more important than New Brunswick, where the province was teetering on the edge of a fiscal cliff.

In New Brunswick, the CTF has banged the drum about government debt by touring our massive national Debt Clock in the province, raising the issue in media interviews and attending the province's budgets to highlight the debt problem. More recently, we intensified the push for debt reduction by making formal pre-budget submissions to the government, holding meetings with politicians and penning a bi-weekly newspaper column used to bring constant attention to the looming debt disaster.

Last year, the government of New Brunswick officially began reducing the debt – rolling the Debt Clock backwards for the first time in 13 years. Running truly balanced budgets and actually reducing the debt is a feat not often seen by politicians in Canada, and the CTF welcomed the news to the shores of New Brunswick with heaps of praise.

The CTF has and will continue to push for debt reduction, balanced budgets and lower taxes in every Atlantic province. The organization now has an official stakeholder presence at every provincial budget in Atlantic Canada, meaning we're fighting for taxpayers in person, in every provincial legislature in the country.

CORPORATE WELFARE – SLAYING THE BEAST OF THE EAST

Corporate welfare – governments handing out taxpayer-funded subsidies to businesses – is a facet of Atlantic politics. In a region sorely in need of well-paying jobs, governments cut corporate welfare cheques to appear to be helping solve the problem. In reality, the high taxes needed to fund these subsidies for corporate cronies are a big part of what

keeps many entrepreneurs from calling the region home. In addition to fighting for lower taxes, the CTF has fought corporate welfare in Atlantic Canada from day one.

The CTF scored a precedent-setting victory for government transparency when digging deep into government corporate welfare contracts in Nova Scotia. The federal government was funding Irving Shipbuilding to build a shipyard in Halifax, but the provincial government had also signed a secret deal with the company. Beginning in 2012, the CTF filed piles of freedom of information request to the government, demanding the details be made public.

It took four and a half years, but Lacey won the fight for taxpayers when the information commissioner ruled that the contract had to be made public. Well into the future, that ruling will help advocacy groups like ours, as well as journalists and the public access information that taxpayers have a right to know.

"The organization now has an official stakeholder presence at every provincial budget in Atlantic Canada, meaning we're fighting for taxpayers in person, in every provincial legislature in the country."

Atlantic Canada is made up of small communities that feel like home, where you'll scratch the surface of the news on the six o'clock broadcast, but you'll get the real scoop on your neighbour's back porch over tea. So we always keep our ears to the ground.

In 2019, we heard rumblings of some luxury golf resort owners lobbying the government to build an airport on Cape Breton Island that would cater primarily to their guests. And they wanted to build it with taxpayer money from Ottawa and Nova Scotia.

The golf course owners formed an organization that launched a sleek website, professional videos and a

Twitter account to campaign for the funding. The government was giving the request serious consideration. We launched a petition, quickly amassing over 15,000 signatures. We met with local stakeholders and taped social media videos onsite. The CTF led the chorus of opposition to this corporate welfare and took it to the next level.

We mobilized our petition signers to call the minister responsible for making the funding decision. Her phones rang off the hook, and the next day she rejected the funding request.

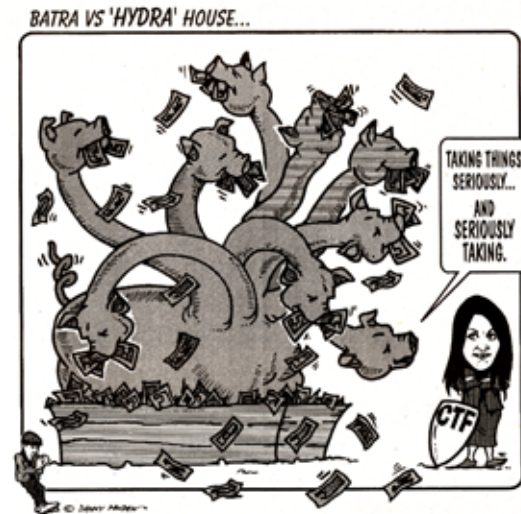
The victory highlighted the true power of the CTF: standing alone, one taxpayer may struggle to make a difference, but when thousands of taxpayers put their weight behind it, together, we can push politicians to change their minds.

The CTF also engaged concerned citizens at the local level when we blew the lid off the bumbling Bluenose II project waste. The project was over budget and behind schedule and the CTF dug deeper to find out more for taxpayers who were footing the bill. The boat wasn't sea-worthy, the project managers hired from Toronto were not adequately overseeing the project, the lawyer bills were overbudget, the markups on the materials were through the roof and more. Finally, the premier agreed with us that the whole thing was a boondoggle and ordered the auditor general to investigate.

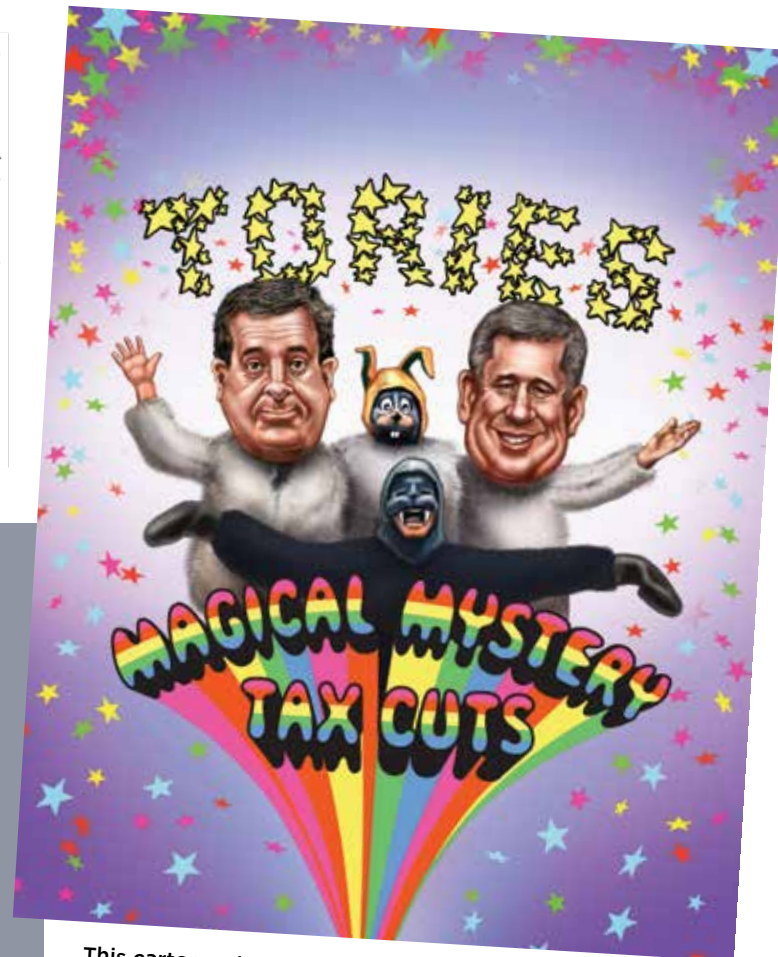
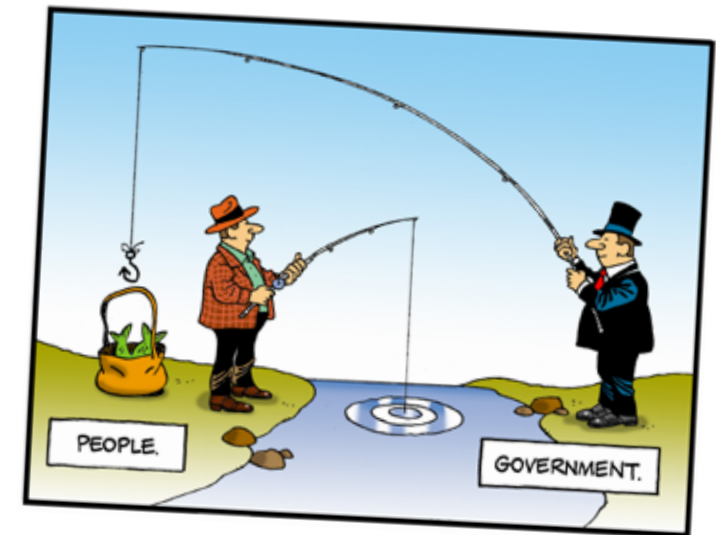
TEN YEARS FIGHTING FOR ATLANTIC TAXPAYERS' REGIONAL ISSUES

For thirty years, the CTF has fought hard for taxpayers across the country, including those in Atlantic Canada. But for ten years, with an official presence in the region, the CTF has fought hard for taxpayers on Atlantic regional issues. We never shy away from tough issues such as the region's overdependence on employment insurance or equalization and the need to bring young people back home. We continue to push for an end to corporate welfare wasted on boondoggles such as the Yarmouth Ferry subsidy. We always demand transparency from politicians. We have won many battles, but our fight for taxpayers continues. **1**

Over our 30-year history, the CTF has given editorial cartoonists plenty of fodder. Dozens of cartoons stemming from our stunts, events and campaigns have run in newspapers across the country. Occasionally, the CTF itself becomes the topic of an editorial cartoon. And on occasion, the CTF hires cartoonists to pen cartoons we wish existed. Here is a sampling of a few of our favourites.



This cartoon ran in the Winnipeg Sun in July 2004 depicting then-Manitoba director Adrienne Batra taking on the provincially funded Hydra House, which wasted millions according to the auditor general.



This cartoon, depicting Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Finance Minister Jim Flaherty recreating the Beatles Magical Mystery Tour album cover, ran on the cover of The Taxpayer in September-October 2007.



When Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's government organized an Italy trip for Liberal MPs of Italian descent and 68 Canadian business people, then-Federal director Walter Robinson dubbed it the "Tortellini Trade Tour." This cartoon ran in the Financial Post in May 1998.



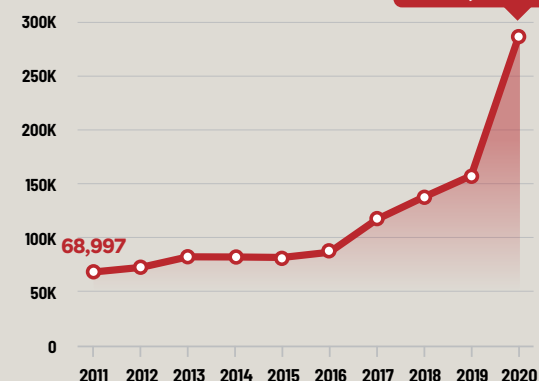
This cartoon ran in the Le Journal de Québec and Le Journal de Montréal papers in March 2019 following the CTF awarding our Teddy Waste Award to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for his embarrassing India trip.

This cartoon ran in the Alberta Teachers' Association newsletter in April 2016 depicting then-Alberta director Paige MacPherson and her call for teacher wage cuts.



BY THE NUMBERS

CTF Supporters



6,054

Total number of Access to Information/
Freedom of Information requests filed by the
CTF from 2009 to 2019

161

Number of editions of
The Taxpayer produced
over past 30 years

31,904

NUMBER OF
DONATIONS
RECEIVED BY THE
CTF IN 2019-20

8

Number of
pages in the
first issue of
The Taxpayer
in Summer
1989

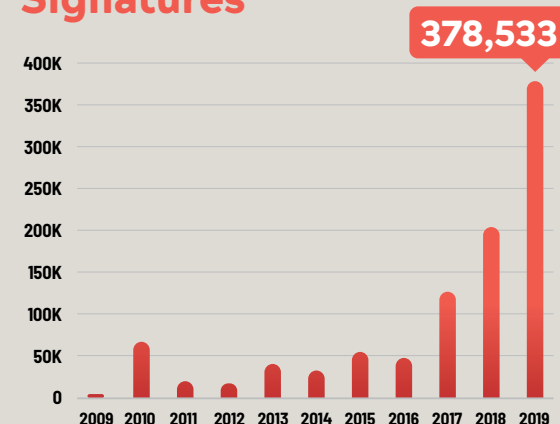
98%

Percentage of donations
to the CTF in 2019-20
that were **under \$1,000**

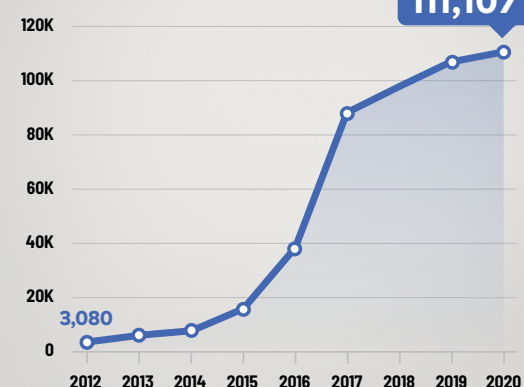
\$4.8 MILLION

TOTAL DONATIONS AND OTHER
REVENUE FOR THE CTF IN 2019-20

CTF Petition Signatures



CTF Facebook Followers



IN THE FALL 2020 EDITION OF THE TAXPAYER...

The race to \$1 trillion

Exclusive: Trudeau's travel costs

A look at New Zealand's
gun buyback

Now that you're all caught up on the
past 30 years, why not dig into our
campaigns and victories in 2019?



Download the Canadian Taxpayers Federation's 2019 Annual Report at
www.taxpayer.com/about

If you would like a copy mailed to you, please contact admin@taxpayer.com.

Extending your hand to the **next generation**

Leave a legacy that reflects your lifelong convictions. Arrange a legacy gift in your will to the Canadian Taxpayers Federation today.

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT

TAXPAYER.COM/LEGACY
legacy@taxpayer.com